

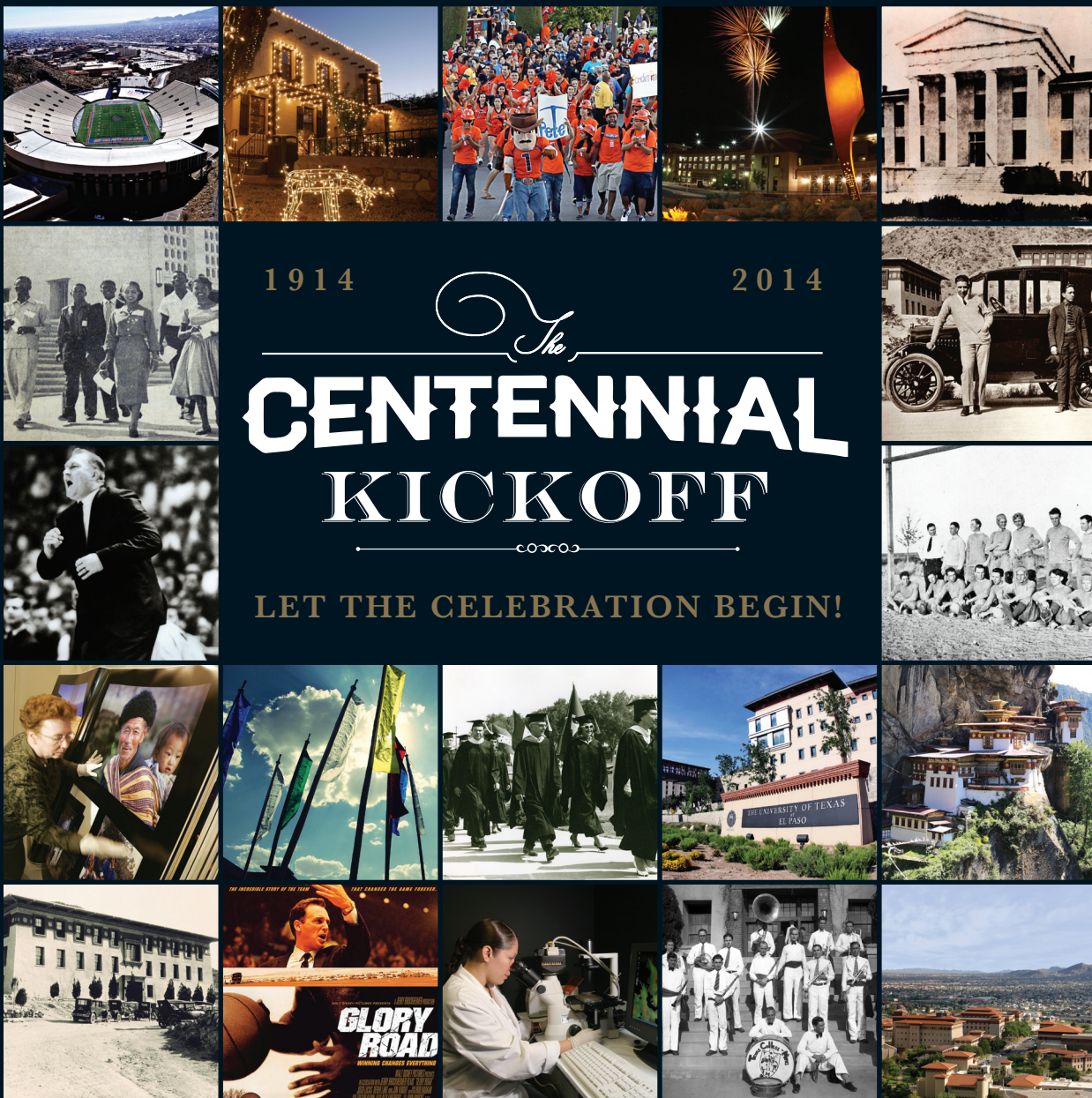
Centennial Series

UTEP

MAGAZINE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

WINTER 2014





THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
PRESIDENT > DIANA NATALICIO

**ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT
FOR UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS**

CHRIS LOPEZ

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
JENN CRAWFORD

ART DIRECTOR
RENÉ WONG

LEAD DESIGNER
GRIS CAMPOS

PRODUCTION MANAGER
ROSE COOPER

PHOTO EDITOR
LAURA TREJO

EDITORIAL

LAURA L. ACOSTA, REBECCA DOWNEY
KEITH EREKSON, LISA Y. GARIBAY,
CHRIS LECHUGA, VERONIQUE MASTERSON,
DANIEL PEREZ, NADIA M. WHITEHEAD

DESIGN
BOBBY DANIELS,
JOHN DOWNEY, TROY TOMBERLIN

PHOTOGRAPHY
J.R. HERNANDEZ, IVAN PIERRE AGUIRRE

COPY EDITORS
RACHEL NEFF, DAVID PEREGRINO

ONLINE EDITOR
FRANK DURAN

WEB AND VIDEO
NAHUM AVILA, JAVIER LOYA, LIZA RODRIGUEZ

BUSINESS SUPPORT
PATSY ACHIM

**SENIOR ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
FOR COMMUNICATIONS & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**
JEFF DARBY

SPORTS INFORMATION
Brumbelow Building
500 W. University Ave.
El Paso, TX 79968-0579
915-747-5347
www.utepathletics.com

Contents © 2014 by
The University of Texas at El Paso
UTEP Magazine

UTEP Magazine is published three times
per year by the UTEP Office of
University Communications
500 W. University Ave.
El Paso, TX 79968-0522
915-747-5526 • univcomm@utep.edu
utepmagazine.utep.edu



UTEP Magazine 2014 • Volume 6, Issue 1
The University of Texas at El Paso
All rights reserved.
Reproduction in whole or in part in any
format without permission is prohibited.

Printed on 10% post consumer recycled paper.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear UTEP Alumni and Friends:

It's an exciting time to be a UTEP Miner! Energy is high on the UTEP campus as we approach 2014, our Centennial year. After months of preparation and planning, it's now time to start the celebration!

We began our official Centennial countdown on Sept. 23 – exactly 100 days before Jan. 1, 2014 – with a highly energetic, student-focused event at the Centennial Museum. We unveiled a beautiful new digital display in front of the museum – a Centennial gift from one of UTEP's esteemed community business partners, GECU. Beginning on Jan. 1, the display will be converted into a marquee to ensure that the campus community is well informed about UTEP events and activities. We are deeply grateful to GECU for this generous donation, which will serve as a lasting legacy of our Centennial year.

The Sept. 23 event also celebrated the official opening of UTEP's Centennial Welcome Center in the museum. Through 2014, the center will offer visitors a permanent exhibit on UTEP history, a series of rotating exhibits on a variety of special topics, guided campus walking tours and a gift shop filled with UTEP Centennial memorabilia and keepsakes. You'll find more about the new Welcome Center on page 6.

A number of us had the privilege of traveling to Bhutan in October for a performance of Handel's *Acis and Galatea* by UTEP students and faculty, together with soloists from across the globe and Bhutanese dancers from the Royal Academy of Performing Arts. It was an amazing experience — life-changing for the students, a great source of pride of accomplishment for all of us at UTEP, and an extraordinary opportunity to witness first-hand UTEP's profound impact on the lives of the students who entrust us with their talents and aspirations. See page 14 for more on this very special celebration of UTEP's 100-year relationship with the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Campus Transformation projects also continue to move forward. New landscaping has given Hawthorne Street and Wiggins Road a new and more pedestrian-friendly look, and work on Centennial Plaza is moving ahead on schedule. Although it will ultimately be invisible, the underground transformation of this space in the heart of our campus will play a major role in the 21st century life of the UTEP campus, and it has been our highest priority during the first phase of construction. Our utility systems infrastructure – water, electricity, natural gas, sewerage, irrigation and Internet – are critical to UTEP's preparedness for future growth and development, and the campus transformation has enabled us to expand capacity and ensure greater reliability and efficiency by replacing all pipes and lines and adding new infrastructure. Further information about UTEP's underground campus transformation can be found on page 32.

This issue of *UTEP Magazine* begins with an essay by Alfredo Corchado, UTEP alumnus (Liberal Arts, 1987), journalist (Mexico Bureau Chief of *The Dallas Morning News*) and author. A highly successful first-generation student whose family came here from Mexico looking for better opportunities, Alfredo is a wonderful representative of the University's more than 100,000 alumni. We asked him to reflect on the significance of the University's 100-year history and our impact on this region and the students we have served. I hope you'll enjoy the insights shared in his essay, which begins on page 2.

All of us at UTEP have worked very hard to plan and prepare for our 2014 Centennial celebration. With the help of our alumni and friends, we've presented several highly successful special events such as Opera Bhutan this fall, and enhanced such annual activities as Minerpalooza and Homecoming. I hope you are as excited as I am to see what our Centennial year is going to offer!

Let the celebration begin!

Diana Natalicio

Diana Natalicio
President

CONTENTS

UTEP MAGAZINE | WINTER 2014

STAY CONNECTED TO UTEP



Photo by Scott Crawford

FINDING SHANGRI-LA

For members of the UTEP family who traveled to Bhutan to be part of the country's first opera, the trip was much more than a musical experience.



IN THIS ISSUE

Want to learn more? Download a free QR code reader mobile app supported by your phone carrier and scan the tags throughout the magazine for more content related to a story.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2 DREAMS OF MY MOTHER AND FATHER

UTEP Alumnus Alfredo Corchado reflects on UTEP's impact on himself and others in the last 100 years.

6 100-DAY COUNTDOWN EVENT KICKS OFF UTEP CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The countdown to UTEP's Centennial year began with a bang, and a new digital marquee.

10 PRESIDENT DIANA NATALICIO'S ANNUAL REPORT

The President reflects on the University's accomplishments in the last year of its first century.

24 I AM PAYDIRT PETE

UTEP's pickaxe-wielding mascot has been an indelible symbol of the University's athletic prowess and Miner spirit for 40 years. Meet some of the people behind the costume.

26 GEAR UP FOR THE CENTENNIAL

Get a glimpse of the new, high-quality Centennial memorabilia now available in the Centennial Museum Welcome Center.

28 A HISTORY OF HOUSING

On-campus housing has been a part of UTEP since it opened 100 years ago. Read about some of the housing highlights, including Vet Village and the Great Panty Raid of 1952.

32 WHAT'S UNDERNEATH

Some of the most important transformations of the new Centennial Plaza will not be visible to the eye; they're taking place underground.

FEATURES

38 UTEP WELCOMES NEW MINERS

The inaugural New Miner Convocation began a tradition that will continue into UTEP's second century.

RESEARCH

40 DANNY OLIVAS, UTEP TO IMPROVE HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT SAFETY

42 NEW BIOMEDICAL DEVICE TO SILENCE WHOOPING COUGH

44 NEW INSTITUTE PROMOTES HEALTHY LIVING

46 HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING ACCELERATES DISCOVERY

48 GRANTS ROUNDUP

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

50 NEWS

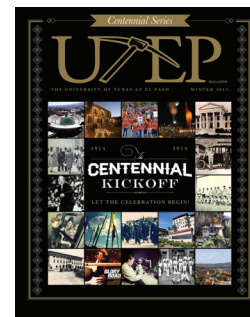
62 ATHLETICS

68 ALUMS

76 IN MEMORIAM

CENTENNIAL SERIES

This issue of *UTEP Magazine* marks the third of six special collector's editions commemorating The University of Texas at El Paso's 100th anniversary in 2014. Each Centennial edition features a Centennial Series banner on the cover. Inside, content related to the Centennial Celebration fills the front of the magazine, followed by the other features, research, news, athletics and alumni's stories. For more on the Centennial Celebration visit utep100years.com.



ON THE COVER

As UTEP's Centennial year begins, this collection of historic and iconic images reminds us of some of the highlights of the University's first century.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

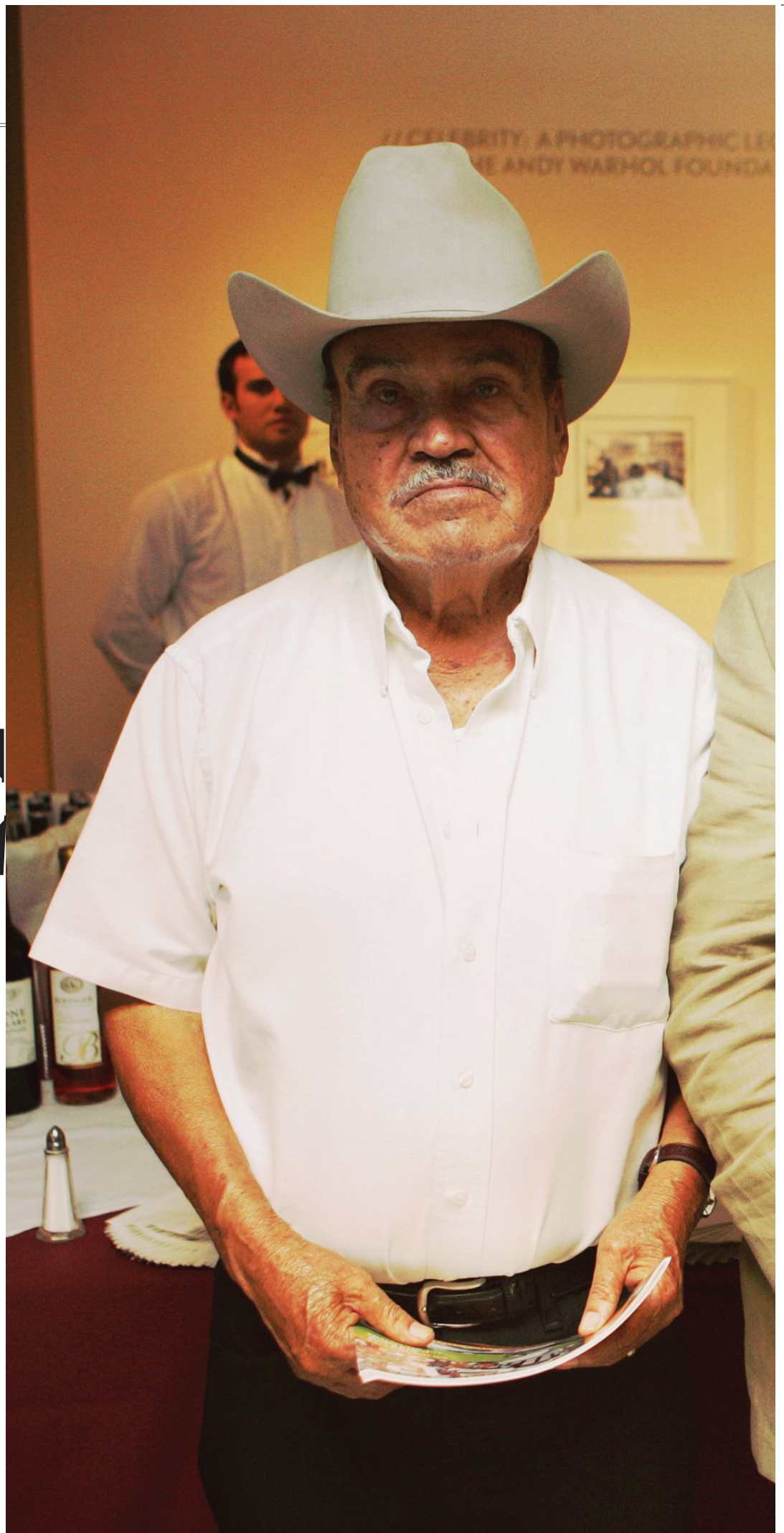
Dreams of my Mother and Father

By Alfredo Corchado

H

doesn't remember the day, but has never forgotten the time, nor the place he was when he imagined the future.

Juan Pablo Corchado had arrived as a *bracero* worker in 1957 with dreams that went beyond the rural town where he was born, in a state shaped like a heart – Durango – or the border he crossed with 25 cents in his pocket. Like millions of *braceros*, who came before and after, these guest workers went on to change the makeup of the Southwest and over time, with their legacy, just about every corner of the United States. Like them, Juan Pablo came seeking a better life.

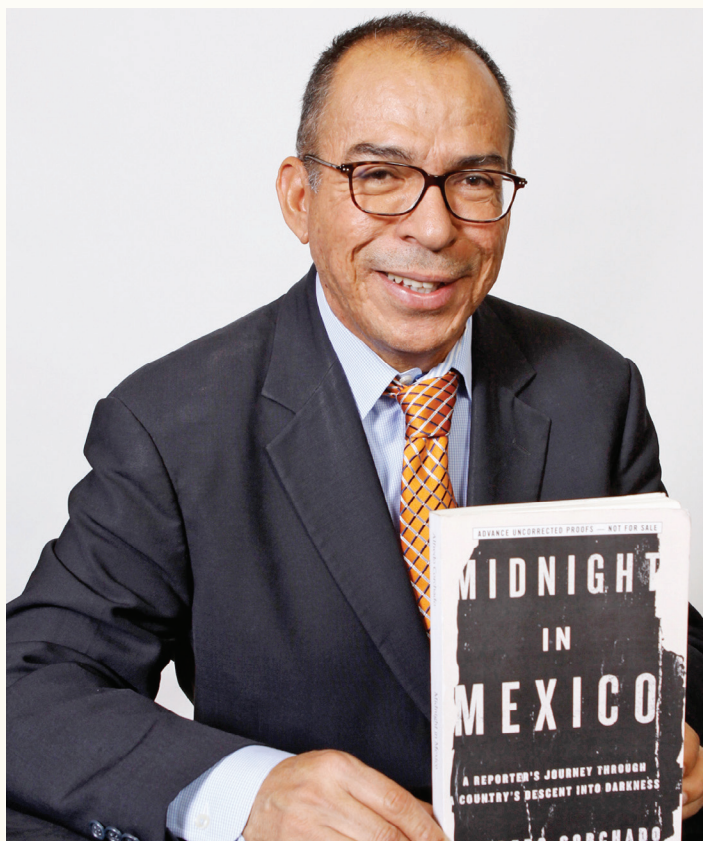




Alfredo Corchado, center, stands with proud parents Juan Pablo and Herlinda in 2009 when he was recognized as a UTEP Gold Nugget Award recipient.



A young Alfredo Corchado later became the eldest of nine.



Corchado's book *Midnight in Mexico*, published in 2013, describes his experiences as a journalist in the United States and Mexico.

He saw it that morning as he headed north in back of a pickup truck to the cotton fields of Anthony, N.M. He passed by Bhutanese buildings and perked up, temporarily forgetting the humiliation he had endured hours earlier with prospective employers at a migrant camp in the Lower Valley. He had seen the buildings before, and figured it was a university, he later said.

But on that particular day he needed assurance, a reminder of why he had come across the Ellis Island of the Southwest, El Paso-Ciudad Juárez, why he stood in line on many mornings to strip naked, to be sprayed with pesticides to rid him of any possible lice. He'd also open his mouth and wait for the latest would-be-employer to inspect him, checking out his teeth and biceps, searching for muscles, as though he was some type of trade horse. My father, Juan Pablo, was never burly, nor tall. But he had a look of fierce determination that helped him survive, overcome anything. He signed papers that said he agreed to abide by international rules, even though they were written in a language he didn't understand.

His was a simple goal, reinforced as he stared back at those looming Bhutanese buildings. He was surrounded by other *braceros*, some of them childhood friends riding the same adventure. He was 21.

"If I ever have children," he remembers telling one of them, "I want them to go to school here. That's why I make the sacrifice, for those who come after me."

Every diploma begins with a vision, some born along that road north. As UTEP celebrates its Centennial, my father's vision is just one of thousands of parents who came before and after him. Their testimonies resonate among many of the 107,000 graduates in those 100 years, many of them the first in their families to attend a university. An estimated 78 percent of those graduates are Hispanic. Their stories form the backbone of how and why our development as a community parallels that of the University. We came of age together. Our destinies are interwoven into one.

This year's fall enrollment for the first time surpassed 23,000. These are the faces of UTEP, students weaving together the hopes and dreams of immigrants who came before them, for their younger siblings, for their own children, for their past and for their future. This resilient spirit is the light that guides our future along our border.

The accomplishments were underscored when UTEP's overall ranking was announced over the summer in *Washington Monthly*'s annual list of top colleges and universities across the country. UTEP was ranked seventh in the nation, just behind Stanford and ahead of Harvard. The

magazine's rankings didn't reflect traditional admission standards, but focused more on efforts to offer educational opportunities to low-income students, research accomplishments and service to graduates.

"UTEP has chosen to follow a different path and so has *Washington Monthly*," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio, who also comes from a working-class family in the state of Missouri. "What is the impact of a university on its region and on this nation? By that measure, by that set of criteria, UTEP zooms to the top."

I remember the day my father told me the story about UTEP, which at the time was known as Texas Western College. I was a high school dropout, and my parents looked for any possible way to motivate me to go back to school. As the eldest of nine, I had the responsibility to set the example for the younger ones. I, along with three of my younger brothers, had crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico in 1966 to join our parents as they followed the crops in the world's biggest agricultural region, California's San Joaquin Valley.

Dropping out meant the end of the dream of my parents, who had elementary school educations. So what did I know about the value of an education?

I was determined not to set foot in any school again. What for, I asked? The place where I

grew up was filled with Hispanics, some with high school diplomas, but the vast majority were school dropouts working in the fields. Plus, I felt I had enough education as a high school freshman to navigate the future. I had even learned English with the help of Michael Jackson's song "Ben," a touching tune I later discovered had been dedicated to a rat.

My mother responded by making an enticing offer: she would pay for the first three monthly

and tolerant community with a bright star on the mountain.

One of the first things I did when I moved to El Paso was drive in my new car on a fall evening to the top of the mountain right next to Sun Bowl Stadium. I could see my father heading north in a pickup truck to pick cotton and felt lucky for the opportunity before me. This wasn't just about me.

I began my higher education first at El Paso Community College to complete my basic courses. The experience was crucial and fundamental in helping me form the basis of what would become my career, journalism. After EPCC I transferred to UTEP, which I attended with the help of a Pell Grant. For a want-to-be-journalist, the experience

importance of having graduated from UTEP. I wasn't adjusting well to the East Coast and soon found myself emulating my new colleagues, some of them graduates of Ivy League schools. I wanted to talk, dress and act like them. Survival meant cutting my links to the past. One day my boss sat down with me and explained that he had recruited me not because I was some charming genius, but because I was a product of the border, a graduate of UTEP, and that education gave me a perspective unlike others. My education could help bridge the gap of understanding in a country undergoing rapid demographic change, and facing new global challenges.

That editor helped me find my voice and identity, something that has served me enormously throughout my career, especially for nearly 20 years as a correspondent and now bureau chief in Mexico City for *The Dallas Morning News*.

As I look back, my parents' dreams have become our own. Others in my family have followed. Five have college degrees; all except one attended UTEP. The second generation – my nephew – is also attending UTEP. My sister Monica returned from Carnegie Mellon University and now works as director of development for the College of Business Administration because she wants to give back. Again, our futures are intertwined.

I came to UTEP to follow the dreams of my mother and father who imagined a life better than theirs. In the process, I found my own. Yes, you can say that in many ways, my decision to attend UTEP was made even before I was born. 📌

I CAME TO UTEP TO FOLLOW THE DREAMS OF MY MOTHER AND FATHER WHO IMAGINED A LIFE BETTER THAN THEIRS. IN THE PROCESS, I FOUND MY OWN.

car payments of any car I wanted, if and only if I agreed to three things: Leave California for El Paso, where we had family members. Every year we visited them and my mother noticed that some Hispanics even wore ties. Two, she wanted me to return to school and three, wanted me to promise not to marry until I obtained that college diploma.

In the end, I picked a white Camaro with a T-top and headed east on I-10. Yet, looking back, it was my father's story about those Bhutanese buildings and his vision for higher education that inspired me to really dream and imagine the possibilities that were denied to my parents, possibilities that now laid before us in a generous

of working in an international laboratory was key. I attended school during the day and then crossed into Ciudad Juárez to cover what to me felt like a social movement, a people demanding democracy, a people moving *en masse* to form communities, Felipe Angeles, Lomas de Paleo, under the toughest of conditions, all across from UTEP, which from the Mexican side shines like a towering beacon of hope.

I graduated, first in my family, of course, in 1986 with a degree in journalism, and days later headed to the East Coast where my career began, working at *The Wall Street Journal* in the Philadelphia bureau. It was there that I discovered on an even more personal level the



Alfredo Corchado is the Mexico Bureau Chief of The Dallas Morning News and author of *Midnight in Mexico: A Reporter's Journey Through a Country's Descent Into Darkness*. He is a 1986 UTEP graduate and a 2009 Gold Nugget Award recipient.

Corchado, center, poses with his family, UTEP President Diana Natalicio, front right, and Senior Executive Vice President Howard Daudistel, back right, during an Alumni Association event in April 2009.

100-DAY COUNTDOWN EVENT KICKS OFF UTEP CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

By Lisa Y. Garibay

Hundreds of UTEP alumni, students, faculty and staff converged in front of the Centennial Museum Sept. 23 to answer a question that had been on many minds: just what's been inside that big box?

Previously covered with a secretive black tarp, the box just outside the entrance of the Centennial Museum had been re-clad in a more festive orange drapery in preparation for an invitation-only gathering Sept. 19 that gave select guests a sneak peek of the museum's new Welcome Center, headquarters for many 100th birthday activities throughout 2014. But even those VIPs weren't allowed a look inside the box, the contents of which had been under construction for months.

The Sept. 23 event marked the kickoff of the 100-day countdown to the Centennial, inviting the UTEP and El Paso communities to get into the spirit of celebration. A deejay played upbeat tunes and student organizations put their best feet forward with a dance performance. There were Centennial-themed giveaways and a UTEP "bean feed" that served up tasty grub to hundreds of attendees.





Balloons were released and confetti rained over the crowd that gathered for the unveiling of the Centennial Countdown clock Sept. 23.

Photo by J. R. Hernandez



Those who may not have known about the tradition of the “bean feed” were informed by trivia cards posted along the edge of the museum’s lawn. From as early as 1923, the serving of beans, hot dogs and coffee (now soda) has been part of the annual painting of the “M” on the mountain above campus.

Local credit union GECU provided large, interactive cutouts placed around the event’s perimeter, offering the chance for anyone to pose within life-sized photos from a century of UTEP’s history.

As the start of the program neared, student organization representatives performed a choreographed number to a medley of songs from past decades and the UTEP cheerleaders further pumped up the crowd. UTEP Vice President for Student Affairs Gary Edens, Ed.D., took the podium to welcome everyone, pointing out that two groups representing UTEP’s rich past and bright future were seated on the lawn: 100 alumni, each wearing blue countdown T-shirts, and 100 current students wearing orange countdown shirts. Heading up the alumni group was Joyce Graves of the class of 1949, who received loud cheers and gave a standing wave in thanks.

Edens then deferred to Student Government Association President Paulina Lopez, who introduced the UTEP chorale and band before they performed the University’s alma mater.

President Natalicio received a standing ovation from the alumni group amid applause and cheers from the larger crowd, especially after Edens read a list of the President’s impressive



Students pose with “picks up” in front of the Centennial Museum after the countdown officially kicked off.

stats: she has served as president for a quarter of UTEP’s history, she is the longest-serving president of a four-year Texas public university and is UTEP’s first female president. Addressing the crowd, President Natalicio reiterated the significance of UTEP’s ranking by *Washington Monthly* as #7 nationally (between #6 Stanford and #8 Harvard), a reflection not only of the University’s academic standards, but also its success in encouraging students to give back to their communities as well as the nation. The president also noted that over its history UTEP has bestowed 107,000 degrees.

Crystal Long, president and CEO of GECU, introduced UTEP’s newest structure when the mystery box was opened to reveal a

digital marquee enclosed within a Bhutanese-style tower, a gift to UTEP from GECU for the Centennial. Long also listed efforts that the credit union and its employees will put forth over the next few months as part of the Centennial countdown: several GECU branches will be lit up with orange lights in the evenings, employees will wear orange on Fridays, and the historical cutouts on display at the countdown kickoff event will be displayed at its locations.

Edens led a chant of “Go Miners!” to boost the energy before the 10-second countdown-to-the-official-countdown began. Once the Centennial countdown clock was revealed on the new digital marquee’s large LED screen, students gathered in front of news crews and

IT'S CENTENNIAL TIME!

By Keith A. Erikson

Keith A. Erikson, Ph.D., is an associate professor of history and executive director of the Centennial Celebration. Follow his Centennial updates on Twitter @KeithAErikson.

Our Centennial year is almost here. We have been planning for and counting down to 2014 so that we can spend the entire year celebrating UTEP’s proud past, profound present and prospect-filled future. We hope all in the Miner Nation – no matter where you may be – will ring in the Centennial Year by turning your New Year’s Eve party orange.

The coming year will be filled with opportunities to mark this special occasion. The Centennial Welcome Center is now in full operation, featuring new exhibits, a theater and a gift shop devoted to UTEP history and the celebration. Many exciting new keepsakes are available to help decorate your home, office or wardrobe with Miner pride.

A major highlight of the first half of the year will be the campuswide open house the weekend of April 11-13. College of Liberal Arts Dean Pat Witherspoon, Ph.D., and Student Government Association President Paulina Lopez lead a dedicated team of people preparing to showcase all the talents and accomplishments of UTEP students, faculty and staff at the event. There

will be performances and displays by UTEP artists; demonstrations and lectures; behind-the-scenes tours of labs and campus places; and, of course, food and a great time. The events are free and open to the public – with ample parking available. Save the dates and don’t miss out on this once-in-a-century experience!

Looking further ahead to the fall, there are a host of events in the works. The Centennial Plaza will open with a special surprise, and Minerpalooza is shaping up to be the party of the century. We are making plans to touch the lives of the next generation of Miners. Homecoming week will feature new activities and new reunions, so stay tuned. The Centennial Campaign also continues throughout the year, so there is still time to donate to UTEP’s future.

Many in the community and on campus are finding their own special ways to join the celebration. The Centennial website, UTEP100years.com, documents community and campus involvement and also presents a list of 100 ways that you and your friends can join the celebration. 🍌

photographers at the edge of the museum lawn and flipped placards reading “1914-2014” and “100 Years” as orange, blue and white confetti shot out of cannons and UTEP-colored balloons were released into the sky.

After the outdoor excitement, a ribbon-cutting took place for the Centennial Museum’s new welcome center, and all attendees were invited inside to take in exhibits, a theater and a gift shop stocked with items dedicated to the 100th year. Museum Director Maribel Villalva said the museum will retain its regular hours, staying closed on Mondays and during all UTEP football home games.

The main Centennial exhibit, “A Century of Transformation,” will be on display in the museum’s main gallery through Jan. 15, 2015. It was curated by Keith Erikson, Ph.D., assistant professor of history and director of the Centennial Commission, and a team comprised of graduate student Deborah Chaney, Villalva, museum curator Scott Cutler, Rubin Center Director Kerry Doyle, Director of the UTEP Institute of Oral History Kristine Navarro, and Assistant Professor of Art Anne Giangulio.

It was a particularly special opportunity for Chaney, who received a fellowship from the Library of Congress and has years of experience as a curatorial assistant with the Witte Museum in San Antonio. This is the first project for which she has had a direct impact in its creation and installation from the ground up.

“My goal is to bring history to a personal level for the people who come to see it,” she said.

The exhibit features an interactive timeline where visitors can pin their own UTEP Centennial memories; a display of Paydirt Pete costumes demonstrating the beloved mascot’s evolution through the years; facts about the

school’s leadership against segregation; an interactive multimedia station showing stories of distinguished alumni; and examples of the special connection between UTEP and the Kingdom of Bhutan. While the exhibit is by no means comprehensive – that would take many buildings to house – Villalva believes it will be enough to interest people in learning more on their own and a proud reminder of where UTEP is today.

Also highlighting UTEP’s 100-year legacy is a series of rotating exhibits in the Tom Lea gallery of the museum. This will spotlight subjects including UTEP Athletics, UTEP in the News, UTEP and the Chicano Movement, and UTEP and the Kingdom of Bhutan. A Centennial photo contest invites anyone to submit their best UTEP-related photos and possibly have them featured on the wall of the gallery. To kick things off, a “technology time capsule” exhibit put together by students from the Exhibition Practices One class in Spring 2013 welcomed the first visitors through late November.

The museum lobby will offer an electronic kiosk connecting visitors with more UTEP information online. Younger visitors can take advantage of the children’s area and learn while they play “miner,” don light-up orange hard hats and sink their hands into a dig pit.

A range of campus walking tours will also originate in the museum lobby, with visitors able to choose between curator-led or self-guided options. The tours will highlight UTEP athletic facilities, architecture, arts on campus, the film *Glory Road*, University history, Bhutanese influence on campus, UTEP’s state-of-the-art research facilities and a “haunted” tour in October 2014. 🗨



Paydirt Pete helped, from left, Centennial Celebration Executive Director Keith A. Erikson, GECU President and CEO Crystal Long, UTEP President Diana Natalicio, and Student Government Association President Paulina Lopez cut the ribbon to open the new Welcome Center inside the Centennial Museum.



College of Business Administration

An Education that Transcends Borders

BBA
MBA
MAcc
MSE
Ph.D.

MBA Ranked #1 by *HispanicBusiness* Magazine in 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2013



business.utep.edu





“STILL, AS I’VE OFTEN SAID, ACCESS WITHOUT EXCELLENCE IS A PROMISE TO BE BROKEN.”

PRESIDENT DIANA NATALICIO’S

ANNUAL REPORT

As part of the launch of UTEP’s Centennial commemoration, UTEP President Diana Natalicio departed from the traditional format of the annual State of the University address in Magoffin Auditorium. Instead, she delivered an abbreviated annual report Sept. 19 on UTEP’s growing success in achieving national research university recognition before cutting the ribbon for a sneak preview of the new Centennial Welcome Center. An abridged version of her remarks is transcribed below.

A new academic year on university campuses always begins with an air of excitement and optimism, and this fall 2013 semester at UTEP is overflowing with both. Excitement abounds in anticipation of the many events that have been planned to celebrate UTEP’s 100th anniversary in 2014. The next 15 months are going to offer all of us on the campus, and our alumni, friends and supporters in this region and elsewhere, extraordinary experiences and lifetime memories of being a part of UTEP’s Centennial commemoration.

We are filled, too, with optimism, knowing that UTEP has unprecedented momentum to achieve its goal of sustained national respect and recognition for successfully serving residents of our Paso del Norte region and beyond with balanced commitments to both access and excellence. *Washington Monthly’s* 2013 ranking of UTEP as #7 among all U.S. colleges and universities, between #6 Stanford and #8 Harvard, has given national visibility to the transformative work that has been done by dedicated faculty and staff who have creatively and courageously embraced our access and excellence mission and enabled UTEP to become a national leader in redefining public higher education in the United States.

This national recognition reflects the convergence of UTEP’s successful transformation into a nationally prominent public research university, and *Washington Monthly’s* effort to challenge traditional college and university rankings. Twenty-

five years ago, UTEP was at a critical crossroads. There were many on the campus who believed that the single path toward greater glory in higher education would require emulating prestigious research universities, however different their settings, constituencies and missions; some of you may recall “Harvard on the Border” bumper stickers. These misaligned aspirations were reinforced by *U.S. News and World Report*, the only major college rankings at that time, which focused almost entirely on such prestige factors as alumni giving, endowment size and number of students denied admission. Not surprisingly, the top ranks consistently went to small, private colleges and universities. *Washington Monthly’s* decision to offer an alternative to *U.S. News* rankings involved the development of new measures of institutional impact, including student social mobility (in which UTEP ranked first among all universities), research and doctoral degrees, and service to a region and the nation. While we were working to become the best UTEP we could be, *Washington Monthly*, quite independently, was working to make more meaningful the value proposition in university rankings. The result? UTEP is now proudly not “Harvard on the Border,” but we’re definitely bordering Harvard in *Washington Monthly’s* latest ranking!

Washington Monthly rankings place high value on affordability and access for students, goals to which UTEP has also been strongly committed. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Education, at \$2,543 per year, UTEP has the lowest net price of attendance of all U.S. research universities.

Still, as I’ve often said, access without excellence is a promise to be broken. UTEP students’ diplomas must enable them to compete with their peers in more affluent settings across the globe, and UTEP faculty and staff work extremely hard to create a broad range of enriched educational experiences — from study abroad, to civic engagement, to internships — to ensure that they’re ready to do just that.



UTEP's #7 national ranking by *Washington Monthly* is also directly responsive to a question that I'm frequently asked about UTEP's progress toward "Tier One," the Texas equivalent of "national research university." In many ways UTEP's inclusion among the *Washington Monthly's* Top Ten national universities offers the strongest evidence of our remarkable progress toward Tier One. I'm very pleased to report that during the past year we have continued to make great strides, as student, faculty and staff accomplishments collectively contribute to UTEP's progress toward our Tier One goal.

Outstanding teaching and student learning are the foundation upon which every great university rests. UTEP has been successful in recruiting and retaining an uncommonly talented and dedicated faculty who generously devote their time and expertise to creating an exciting learning experience for UTEP students, from entering freshmen to those pursuing doctoral degrees. One highly visible confirmation of teaching excellence at UTEP over the past several years has been the selection of UTEP faculty members as recipients of the highly competitive UT System Board of Regents' Outstanding Teaching awards, and the \$25,000 prize that accompanies each of them. This competition recognizes faculty teaching excellence across all nine academic institutions in the UT System, and I'm happy to report that each year UTEP faculty are disproportionately represented among the honorees. This year, eight UTEP faculty members were honored with the Board of Regents Outstanding Teaching Award at a dinner in Austin.

A second major dimension of Tier One attainment is research, scholarship and doctoral education. In 2010, we articulated in UTEP's Strategic Plan for Research our expectations for progress toward Tier One in terms of two primary goals: to reach \$100 million in annual research

REGENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Charles Boehmer, associate professor of political science
- Ann Gabbert, associate director for student support, and lecturer in the entering student program
- Gaspare Genna, associate professor of political science
- John Hadjimarcou, professor and chair of marketing and management
- Dave McIntyre, senior lecturer in art
- James Salvador, associate professor of chemistry
- Cigdem Sirin, assistant professor of political science
- Ron Wagler, assistant professor of teacher education

expenditures, and to award at least 100 doctoral degrees annually. I'm pleased to report continued progress on both fronts. Research expenditures in FY 2013 totaled just under \$80 million, moving us ever closer to our \$100 million annual expenditures goal. In terms of doctoral degrees awarded, this past year marked the first time we exceeded our annual 100 doctoral degrees target; we awarded 128 of them.

Tier One has been very much on our minds in terms of UTEP's campus climate, as we planned the conversion of the central core of the campus into a vehicle-free pedestrian space with walkways and bikeways, native-plant shaded gathering spaces and restored arroyos. Many of you have seen beautiful drawings of the completed Centennial Plaza but, so far, the work under way on the campus bears little resemblance to those drawings. Instead, it's focused on the "underground transformation" of our utility infrastructure that will become invisible once it's installed.

This Campus Transformation initiative offers a vivid reminder of how much of the University's critically important work goes on behind the scenes by unsung staff members in departments across the campus — facilities services, information technology, special events, campus police, parking and transportation, purchasing, financial services, environmental health and safety — whose expertise and strong commitment to quality ensures a safe, productive, efficient and attractive workplace for all of us.

UTEP's achievements also extend well beyond the perimeter of the campus, as we work to contribute to the prosperity and quality of life of the surrounding region. A recent study revealed that UTEP's economic impact on El Paso County amounts to \$1.3 billion per year through the productivity of alumni, campus payroll, operational expenditures and spending by out-of-town students and



Top: UT System Board of Regents Outstanding Teaching Award winners stand to be recognized during the ceremony.

Right: In a break from tradition, UTEP President Diana Natalicio delivered her annual address on the Undergraduate Learning Center patio.





Top: A breaking hammer pummels the side of a mountain along Sun Bowl Drive as part of a widening project that will make the popular north-south corridor safer, especially during special events when traffic demands increase.



Right: New energy efficient LED lights were installed this fall along Wiggins Road as part of the Campus Transformation. The lighting, which complies with the City of El Paso's "dark skies" ordinance, enhances visibility and safety.

visitors. And our impact goes well beyond economics, as we offer our community a broad range of special programs and events on the campus, and partner with school districts, EPCC and organizations such as the Housing Authority, Workforce Solutions and the YWCA to increase opportunities for area residents.

As we continue to celebrate all the exciting achievements of the past year and the progress toward reaching our Tier One goals, we are also keenly focused on the year ahead.

The yearlong Centennial celebration is not only a commemoration of the past, but the start of a new era as UTEP becomes the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic. Reaching our #7 national ranking after 25 years of steady progress toward self-definition, UTEP now stands at another crossroads which will require us to sustain the yields on our substantial investments. Sustainability will require the support of our many friends, partners and alumni to successfully reach — and, we trust, exceed — our \$200 million Centennial campaign goal, to build our endowment, provide financial support for students, and enhance excellence in academic and research programs across the campus. Funds raised to date total more than \$190 million (95 percent of our goal), and we are deeply grateful to those of you who have already generously participated. Although we're close to our \$200 million campaign goal, I hope you're ready to join me in stepping on the accelerator once more to capitalize on our momentum and speed beyond it ... Do I recall that Russ Vandenburg, chair of the Campaign Leadership Council,



This Campus Transformation initiative offers a vivid reminder of how much of the University's critically important work goes on behind the scenes by unsung staff members in departments across the campus.

talked about hitting \$214 million? That seems to have a nice ring, no?

I hope that some of you will have a special interest in contributing to the Campus Transformation initiative that is now under way. This project will complement the recent \$300 million investment that we've made in new campus buildings, create a continuous pedestrian environment and more inviting outdoor spaces for studying, collaborating and relaxing, and promote a strong sense of community by encouraging students to remain on campus longer and increase their level of engagement. Most important of all, it will enhance the quality of life for students, faculty, staff and residents of the surrounding region.

The University of Texas System Board of Regents and the Texas Department of Transportation have committed \$18 million to this initiative, and some UTEP alumni and friends have already designated philanthropic gifts toward our \$25 million total cost to complete it. A number of special features of this project will lend themselves to naming opportunities and become part of UTEP's Centennial legacy.

Among them will be permanently installed and highly visible public artworks, which include the *Mining Minds* sculpture that was provided by the Texas Department of Transportation, and the beautiful *Ihakhang* donated by the people of Bhutan. We look forward to talking with many of you and others for whom this region's quality of life is a priority, about acquiring visually stimulating and appealing works of outdoor art to commemorate UTEP's Centennial. ▢



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Shangri-La: "A remote, beautiful, imaginary place where life approaches perfection; utopia." (Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary)



FINDING *Shangri-La*

BHUTAN EXPERIENCE TEACHES US MORE THAN OPERA



The UTEP Opera Bhutan group arrives at the airport in Paro, Bhutan Oct. 2.

On our last day in Bhutan, our plane out of Paro – the only international airport in the country – was delayed by more than three hours. This was not good news. We had been away from our homes and families for almost three weeks, and despite an unforgettable, wonderful experience in Bhutan, most of us were ready to get our three-day journey home over as quickly and painlessly as possible.

After some grumbling and brief panic about missing connections in Bangkok for some passengers associated with the Opera Bhutan project, we settled into our seats in the airport waiting area, still high on the easygoing, friendly

and happy nature of the Bhutanese way of life.

And then wonderful things began to happen. A group of male UTEP vocalists serenaded the waiting area with an a cappella rendition of “For the Longest Time,” an ironic and fitting selection. The airport staff served everyone tea and then gave us a full lunch right there in the airport while the rain pattered down on the lone runway outside.

Most importantly, the people associated with the historic Opera Bhutan project – vocalists, instrumentalists, directors, stage managers, sound engineers, UTEP staff, and alumni and friends on tour in Bhutan – had the opportunity

to talk to each other; to recount our experiences and share our new love of this tiny Himalayan kingdom where Internet access is scarce and unreliable, and face-to-face communication is more important; where natural beauty is appreciated and cultural identity, relationships and traditions take priority over modernization.

Our plane from Paro to Bangkok – the first of five flights on our journey back to El Paso – did eventually take off, and as we flew east out of the majestic Himalayas and above the clouds toward the International Dateline, we wondered how we could bring a little piece of Shangri-La back to our Bhutan on the border.



UTEP students rehearse the mourning scene in Handel's *Acis and Galatea* on stage at the Royal Textile Academy in Thimphu.

Overture

The Opera Bhutan project originated in the mind of Aaron Carpenè, a musician and conductor who contacted Preston Scott, adviser to the Royal Government of Bhutan on a range of cultural projects, in 2004 to ask if an opera had ever been performed in the country. The answer was no, but the timing was not right for the Bhutanese government to pursue it.

In 2008, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C. hosted the largest presentation of Bhutanese life and culture outside the kingdom. Both Carpenè and officials from The University of Texas at El Paso attended the event, curated by Scott. It was then that Carpenè and Scott learned about UTEP's connection with Bhutan, which began almost 100 years ago when the first dean's wife admired photos of Bhutan in a *National Geographic Magazine* photo essay by British diplomat Jean Claude White. Kathleen Worrell

convinced her husband, Dean Steve Worrell, that the Bhutanese architecture would fit well in El Paso. The University's original buildings, located on Fort Bliss, had burned down and would be rebuilt on a new site. The dean agreed with his wife's suggestion and UTEP's signature Bhutanese look was born.

In 2009, Carpenè was invited to present a recital of music from the George Friderich Handel opera *Acis and Galatea* for Bhutan's prime minister and other government officials. Later that year, Carpenè and Scott brought Italian stage director Stefano Vizioli into the fold and began planning the Opera Bhutan project. UTEP became involved in 2010.

Three years later, in late September 2013, Carpenè, Vizioli, Scott, UTEP representatives and about 40 others from 10 countries converged in Thimphu, Bhutan's capitol, to realize the dream that had begun nine years earlier.

Stage Director Stefano Vizioli, left, and Executive Producer Preston Scott were instrumental in bringing the Opera Bhutan production to fruition.



Act One

For several UTEP students in the Opera Bhutan chorus and orchestra, the trip to Bhutan was their first time on an airplane. Thirty-one of us, including seven UTEP staff and faculty, boarded the plane at El Paso International Airport Sept. 29 for a 60-hour journey that included stops in Chicago; Tokyo; Bangkok; Paro, Bhutan; and finally Thimphu, where we arrived by bus on Oct. 2.

After settling into our hotel, learning our way around downtown Thimphu and getting advice on drinking tap water (don't), stray dogs (most are harmless but they sometimes bark all night), and where to buy authentic Bhutanese clothing and handicrafts, we attempted to start the jet lag recovery process and readjust our internal clocks by 12 hours before rehearsals started the next morning.

At the first rehearsal, we were greeted by a dozen other foreigners working on the project who had already been in the country for a few days, as well as Bhutanese dancers, musicians, carpenters and painters. Karma Wangchuk led the Bhutanese construction crew. He is the architect who has consulted with UTEP on our *lhakhang*, a Bhutanese building constructed for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival that was donated to the people of the United States and resides on the UTEP campus as a cultural center. Wangchuk and his team, along with technical directors and audio engineers from the Smithsonian, were busy constructing a wooden stage and tents in the courtyard of Thimphu's Royal Textile Academy. Since performances on a stage with an orchestra were unknown in Bhutan, the Opera Bhutan crew had to construct everything, from speaker and monitor stands to orchestra risers and music stands.

The cast and crew shipped or traveled with all of the orchestral instruments, including a harpsichord in a special box created by Associate Professor Don Wilkinson, D.M.A., and a cello that got its own seat on the plane, audio equipment and microphones, costume pieces and props, makeup and hair accessories, and opera programs. While the workers sawed wood by hand for the stage and tents, the orchestra and chorus rehearsed nearby.

The instrumentalists and singers knew their music before arriving in Thimphu, as did the four lead vocalists – Francesca Lombardi Mazzulli (Italy), Thomas Macleay (Canada), Jacques-Greg Belobo (Cameroon) and Brian Downen (United States) – but no one knew the choreography and staging until those last two weeks of preparation in Bhutan with Vizioli.

"I wanted to capture the atmosphere of a traditional Bhutanese performance, where the action is central and the audience is arranged around the performing space," Vizioli explained in his vision for the opera, which would be the first in the world to incorporate Bhutanese dance, music and cultural elements. "While honoring aspects that belong to both the traditions of Bhutanese and Western performing arts, my aim is that both sides focus on sharing common feelings, languages and aspects of human nature in a higher concept of brotherhood through art, music and knowledge."

In the meantime, costume designers Luigi Piccolo of Italy and Rinzin Dorji of Bhutan were in a room downstairs sewing costumes and fitting them to the cast members.



Federica Pericle, left, and her husband Robert Kirken, Ph.D., dean of the College of Science, dressed in traditional Bhutanese clothing for the world premiere of *Opera Bhutan*. They are joined by UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

Intermission

The UTEP students spent most of their time in Bhutan rehearsing, but even walking to and from rehearsals and finding lunch and dinner on their own helped them get to know the city of about 100,000 where they lived for two weeks. Because *Opera Bhutan* was official government business, everyone associated with the opera was free to explore Thimphu on their own without a guide. That is not the case for most tourists visiting Bhutan. Unless you are Bhutanese or Indian, you must be part of an organized tour to visit the country, which includes a fee of \$250 a day per person that covers food, lodging, transportation and a guide.

Since we weren't part of a package tour, we were able to experience a more authentic Bhutan, especially when it came to food. Tour groups typically eat buffets designed with foreign tourists in mind. The UTEP group had the opportunity to taste authentic Bhutanese food, including the national dish, *ema datse*,

FIRST ALUMNI RECEPTION HELD IN BHUTAN



UTEP alumni and staff are shown here at UTEP's first alumni reception in Bhutan. They are: (back, from left) Ugyen Wangchuk, Dowchu Drukpa, UTEP President Diana Natalicio, Phuntsho Gyeltshen, Jurmeth Tshering, Dawa Penjor, (front) Dechen Wangmo, Rinchen Wangmo, Saroja Pradhan, UTEP Dean of Students Catie McCorry-Andalis, Deki Palden Thinlay and Sonam Wangmo. Photo by Scott Crawford

For the first time in UTEP history, the University held an alumni reception in Bhutan on Oct. 12, following the world premiere performance of *Opera Bhutan's Acis and Galatea*.

About a dozen UTEP alumni from Bhutan and their families attended the reception at the country's only golf course, the Royal Thimphu Golf Club. Perched above the Trashie Chhoe Dzong, which holds the offices of the king, the nine-hole golf course is the only public course in Bhutan.

The event was a special time for UTEP Dean of Students Catie McCorry-Andalis, Ed.D., who had the opportunity to reconnect with former students she had worked with while they were attending UTEP.

"It was wonderful to see our alumni from over the years and to know that they all are doing great things," McCorry-Andalis said. The reception also was important for the family members of the Bhutanese alumni, many who had never visited El Paso or met President Diana Natalicio.

"Due to the significant distance between Bhutan and El Paso, most of the parents, siblings and loved ones never had an opportunity to visit UTEP while their child attended, not even at graduation," McCorry-Andalis said. "Having the chance to meet and talk with Dr. Natalicio was something very special to them."

Other reception guests included the *Acis and Galatea* chorus and orchestra of UTEP students and faculty, in addition to UTEP staff and about 20 UTEP Bhutan tour participants. Although Bhutan's king and queen did not attend, the king sent a two-layer chocolate cake with his thanks and appreciation for UTEP's efforts to bring a new kind of musical experience to Bhutan.

a combination of very spicy green chilies and a white cheese sauce made from yak's milk. We also ate yak ribs and burgers, potatoes and other vegetables in yak cheese with the signature spicy chilies, red rice, momos (dumplings filled with cheese or beef) and butter tea — a salty tea that tastes like a stick of butter was melted in it. The food was fresh, organic, local and very affordable — a typical meal cost less than \$5.

We also had the opportunity to shop at the many local textile and handicraft vendors selling scarves, painted tapestries called *thangka*, masks representing various Buddhist figures and animals, and even phallus ornaments and keychains. Painted phalluses were visible on many homes outside of the capital city as a symbol of good luck and to ward off evil spirits, although most phalluses in Thimphu had been removed before the fifth king's coronation in 2008 because of the expected international media attention.

On the last day before our departure, the students had the opportunity to hike up to Taktshang Goemba, or Tiger's Nest monastery, one of the most iconic and picturesque monasteries in Bhutan. The 3,000-foot climb to an altitude of more than 10,000 feet was slow and tiring, but the view and the monastery itself were magnificent. Like our trip to Bhutan, the journey was long and hard, but we helped each other get through it and were rewarded at the end with an unforgettable experience in a beautiful, spiritual place.

Curtain Call

Years of work came to fruition Oct. 12 with the world premier of Opera Bhutan's *Acis and Galatea*. An international audience of close to 350 attended. Many were dressed in the traditional *gho* (for men) and *kira* (for women), including UTEP staff, friends and supporters.

It is nothing short of amazing, and a tribute to the great planning of a large production team over the last few years, that almost 70 people from all over the world can convene in an unfamiliar place halfway around the globe for most of us, and in less than three weeks, pull off a brand new musical production in a country that has never before seen, or had the equipment to produce, an opera before.

The opera was beautiful, both musically and visually, especially the touching last scene when Galatea turns her dead lover Acis into an everlasting river. The blue silk cloth "river"

that was cut, dyed and sewn together by UTEP student Monica Cabrera and Assistant Stage Director Justin Lucero billowed up to create flowing ripples like those of the mountain rivers that rushed through Bhutan's valleys.

Queen Mother Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck, a wife of the fourth king, attended with other members of the royal family and spoke to the cast and orchestra on stage after their performance. She thanked them for putting on this special event and said she was moved to tears at the end.

She was not the only one in the audience with teary eyes that afternoon. The crew, staff, American and foreign guests, and even some of the Bhutanese schoolchildren who saw the open dress rehearsal the day before were touched by the beautiful music, colorful costumes and movements of the Bhutanese dancers and tragic, yet hopeful plot of the ancient story.

I was disappointed to learn that we would not be allowed to videotape or photograph the final performance since members of the royal family would be in attendance. But as the final notes of the opera resonated in the Royal Textile Academy courtyard, I was reminded of a conversation I had with Karma Wangchuk, the Bhutanese architectural consultant, earlier in the week. He was explaining some of the main tenets of Bhutanese Buddhism to me, and what he said seemed like a perfect analogy for our Opera Bhutan experience.

He compared this opera production to the Buddhist tradition of creating a sand mandala. The Buddhist spends days or weeks creating an intricate, colorful sand design. When it is completed, he destroys it, showing that everything in life is transitory.

The Opera Bhutan team has spent years planning, raising money, rehearsing, and building a stage and set for an opera that was performed in Bhutan only one time. After Oct. 12, the stage was deconstructed, the tents taken down and the rental equipment returned. The more than 70 people who made the opera possible returned home to their respective countries.

During our talk, Karma also said that maybe the most important part of this opera isn't the opera itself, but the journey to create it. What really matters is the process of putting it together, collaborating with people around the world and forming new relationships, solving problems together and creating something that has taught us all a little bit about each other.



UTEP students and faculty get their first glimpse of Bhutan as they step off the plane in Paro.



From left, principal artists Brian Downen, Thomas Macleay, Francesca Lombardi Mazzulli and Executive Producer Preston Scott bask in the glow of their world premiere performance.



STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



A CHORUS MEMBER IN LOVE

By Joshua Lintz, junior commercial music major

When we signed up for this project, we all knew there would be plenty of struggle and strife, but I don't think anyone could have told us how hard we would fall in love with Bhutan.

The second you touch down in Paro, the scenery steals your heart, especially after 24 hours on a plane and the gritty nature of Bangkok. The fresh mountain air invades your lungs and fills you with a tranquility I could never hope to fully convey to anyone. Just standing on the airstrip nearly brought me to tears, and I had to fight the urge to bawl all through customs.

Then you take a 90-minute bus trip through some seemingly untamed mountains speckled with centuries-old architecture, wooden stands selling chilies and apples, and wildlife that seems to not have a care in the world. The locals have a similar attitude.

The pace of life here feels so right. When I'm not rushing from rehearsal to lunch and back (a process that takes every minute of the two-hour time slot given to us), I could just sit back and chew the fat with anyone who's willing to sit in the vicinity. Here you don't need a reason to be friendly; no ulterior motive to ask someone how they are or why they are in town. Their way of life is infectious, and I have met more incredible people than the days I've been here, some Bhutanese, some from Canada, Italy, Germany and other parts of the United States, and even some people who are students I've been going to school with for the last year-and-a-half to whom I've never spoken.

Bhutan takes whoever is in its borders and treats them to a taste of how life was years and years ago, where if you want to speak with someone, the best way to do it is to go and find that person and speak face to face.

Leaving Bhutan is like losing your first love. Even if you never see her again, you know that she will forever be part of you; a piece of your heart that will never again be filled without her.

A FLUTIST FOREVER GRATEFUL

By Cynthia Gutierrez, music education graduate student



It's Wednesday morning, Oct. 9, 2013. I'm sitting in the orchestra as we've begun rehearsal. A morning person by nature, I'm giddy with enthusiasm; it's a glorious day. The sun is shining and the 360-degree views are breathtaking, making it hard to focus on the rehearsal. It's hard not to be in a good mood in this magical place. As I write this, the chorus is on stage rehearsing their number, "Oh the Pleasure of the Plains," and it couldn't be truer.

Much pleasure has been yielded from this beautiful country. Words and maybe even pictures can't express

(Continued in box on page 21)



“AFTER LUNCH, REHEARSALS RESUME UNTIL 5:30 OR 6 P.M. WE USUALLY HAVE A CROWD OF ONLOOKERS DURING REHEARSALS—BHUTANESE CHILDREN PLAYING IN THE AREA, TOURISTS WHO STOP TO LISTEN FOR A FEW MINUTES...”

From the Opera Bhutan trip blog at bhutan.utep.edu/blog



Members of the Opera Bhutan chorus pose on stage after their world premier performance. They are, from left, (front) senior Jessica Barney, UTEP graduate Michelle Vance, senior Monica Cabrera, senior Leslie Yapor, (back) junior Adrian Salas, sophomore Abraham Quezada and graduate student Raul Chavira.

Encore

The last leg of our return journey, an evening flight from Houston to El Paso, began just as the sun was going down and ended as the last flashes of bright orange sky melted into the horizon. Our two-hour UTEP Orange sunset as we traveled west across Texas on Oct. 15 was a beautiful welcome home and end to our journey.

As the plane pulled into the gate at El Paso International Airport, cheers erupted from the passengers – 80 percent of whom were Opera Bhutan participants. We were home again, but we were not the same people who had flown out of that airport three weeks earlier. We were changed – we had traveled to the other side of the world and knew firsthand just how big the Earth is, yet recognized that it was getting smaller every day.

Even the most remote countries, like Bhutan, had been influenced by Western culture – most Bhutanese speak English, many wear jeans and T-shirts after work hours and their radios often play Western music.

But we had been influenced by Bhutanese culture, too. We saw the value in turning off our electronics and talking with people face-to-face. We experienced what it felt like to slow down, take a deep breath and appreciate the things and people around us. And, being so far away from everything we knew, we were able to recognize what parts of our lives were most important to us, and what we could live without. We had brought home a little piece of Shangri-La, and it would stay with us forever. 📷



Use your smartphone to scan this code to see more photos and stories about Opera Bhutan, or visit bhutan.utep.edu.

what it feels like to be performing on this stunning, handmade stage, in this beautiful location at the Royal Textile Academy. As if the scenery isn't enough to stimulate the senses, the collaboration of so many talented forces coming together most definitely is. The orchestra, the chorus, the leads and even the tech and production people came together from all areas of the world. From Croatia to Australia and with different languages and customs, we are all unified through music.

The Bhutan Royal Academy of Performing Arts (RAPA) musicians are completely amazing. I'm so happy they are honoring us with their talents in this production. I am moved to tears when Sangay Wangmo, RAPA vocalist and dancer, begins her number, "Love Song and Dance." One woman, unaccompanied, has such grace and beauty in her tone that she can still the flutter of activity and command the attention of all passers by. Our female lead vocalist, Francesca Lombardi Mazzulli, does the same when she thrills us with her beautiful operatic virtuosity.

I have always known the benefits of music and its positive effects, but I would've never imagined it could bring me here and tie me to such talented people from so many different walks of life. I am forever grateful to any and all who have made this experience possible for me.



LEARNING TO LOOK UP

By Mariana Sandoval, junior music performance major

It still feels very unreal what we just experienced. It all feels like it was a dream. I can still remember the feeling I had when I was performing on stage. Everything that I've ever done no longer mattered at that moment where I was truly happy to be doing what I love with people who became family.

I miss waking up and seeing all of us eating and laughing at breakfast. I miss walking down the street to rehearsal and greeting people as I went. I miss the environment. Everything is so peaceful in Bhutan. It was the first time in my life that I could say I was not stressed. I was living life the way I always wanted to. Every day was different, something new to see and experience. No same old routine, no stress. I miss the people, very beautiful and kind. They barely even knew us, but they were welcoming and sweet nevertheless. I still wear the bracelet a sweet woman from a shop in the hotel gave me my last night in Bhutan. She told me it brings good luck and that she will miss us all.

So many things that occurred on this trip changed my perspective. People go through life always looking down and never seeing the beautiful things around them. Sometimes we need to look up and notice what we have. We go through life always expecting the worst instead of living in the moment and enjoying the small things. Life is a battle and it is unfair sometimes, but always living under its shadow is not the way to live. The people who care for us tend to be closer than we expect. And lastly, just because you say goodbye does not mean it is forever. All of the moments and friendships that grew and were made throughout this trip will forever be carried with me.

ON TOUR *in Bhutan*

While the chorus, orchestra and dancers were rehearsing, 20 UTEP faculty, staff, alumni, friends and supporters were experiencing Bhutan as tourists, visiting the cities of Paro and Thimphu and the surrounding historical and cultural sites.

There are perks to seeing Bhutan this way. For one thing, the tourists had Bhutanese guides with them at all times who were very knowledgeable and could answer almost any question posed to them, as well as tailor the tour to the interests and special requests of the group members.

During six days, the tour group visited at least a dozen temples (where you must take your shoes off to enter and photos are not permitted) — some built as early as the seventh century, several *dzongs* (fortresses that are half government offices and half monastery), Bhutan's National Museum, a traditional farmhouse, a museum of traditional

medicine, a school for Bhutanese arts, a number of shops and markets, and several local restaurants. They heard monks in red robes chanting in the temples, saw buildings and paintings that are several thousand years old, spun dozens of prayer wheels, watched the rice fields in various states of harvest, and tasted *arra*, the local whiskey, and butter tea, a salty, buttery tea that tastes as bad as it sounds.

A highlight of the tour was a hike up to the Taktshang Goemba, or Tiger's Nest Monastery. From the trailhead, the climb seems impossible, not unlike the thought of traveling halfway around the world to visit a tiny, unknown Himalayan country. In both cases, the difficult journey made the destination all the more special. ➤

The 169-foot bronze Buddha statue that overlooks the city of Thimphu claims to be the largest and tallest in the world. The plaza and meditation hall beneath it are still under construction.

Next page, top left: A Bhutanese woman dressed in the traditional *kira* goes about her daily shopping with two children in tow.

Top right: Tour participant Kristin Berry, a veterinarian from Mississippi who grew up in El Paso, shows three young monks a photo

she took of them in the courtyard of the Trashi Chhoe Dzong in Thimphu, which contains both government offices and a monastery.

Bottom left: The rice harvest was just beginning as the tour participants traveled through the Paro Valley.

Bottom right: Prayer wheels that spin as water flows through them are common sights throughout Bhutan. The prayer wheel in this building, called a *chorten*, was near the base of the trail to the Tiger's Nest monastery.



Photo by Charles Horak





CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

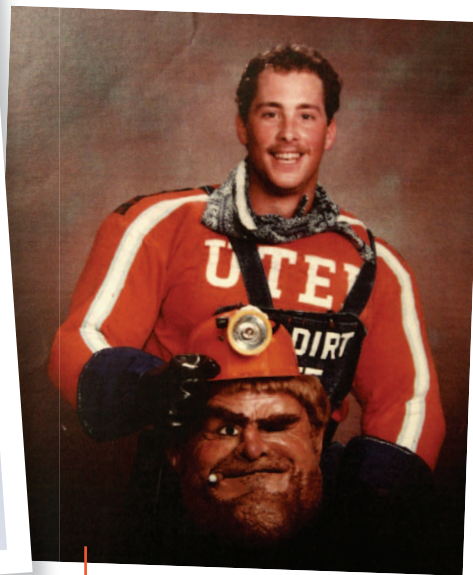
I AM PAYDIRT PETE

By Laura L. Acosta

PAYDIRT PETE - UTEP'S PICKAXE-WIELDING MASCOT WITH THE SMOOTH 'STACHE AND SQUARE CHIN - HAS BEEN AN INDELIBLE SYMBOL OF THE UNIVERSITY'S ATHLETIC PROWESS AND MINER SPIRIT FOR 40 YEARS.



Monica Castillo surprised friends and fans when she revealed that she was Paydirt Pete from 2004-08. She inaugurated Pete's current costume in 2005.



Richard Bland donned Paydirt Pete's costume during UTEP's 1985 winning basketball season. He describes the season as a crazy time at UTEP.

Since 1974 when the moniker "Paydirt Pete" was adopted, fans have watched the mighty mascot undergo six incarnations.

Paydirt Pete started as a "Disney-like" character in 1980. He developed muscles and a smoking habit in 1983, but ditched the cigar three years later. Pete exchanged his mining helmet for a cowboy hat and a handlebar mustache in 1999, then became "deranged" the following year. In 2005, he was finally transformed into the "Magnum, P.I." look-alike that Miner Maniacs love today.

While Pete's exterior has changed over the years, inside he's always been human.

Paydirt Pete is brought to life by hardcore Miner fans who wear the costume not only to rally fans during football and basketball seasons, but also to act as a goodwill ambassador between UTEP and the world.

"My costume was a part of me," said Monica Castillo, who surprised friends and fans when she revealed that the person filling Pete's size 15 boots from 2004 to 2008 was a woman. "The person who becomes the next Paydirt Pete needs to have pride. You're representing UTEP and you've got to be excited that you're Pete. You have to feel it; you have to want it."

Like Pete, the Miners inside the costume have changed over the last four decades and each has his or her own Paydirt Pete story to tell.

IN THE BEGGING, THERE WAS JIMMY LEGARRETA

Even though the first Paydirt Pete wasn't a Disney character, his cherub face and "Bambi" eyes earned him the nickname "Sweet Pete," which wasn't exactly a compliment, according to Jimmy Legarreta – the first student to wear the Paydirt Pete costume.

"That's a big misconception," Legarreta said. "The only people that called him 'Sweet Pete' were in the athletic department because they wanted somebody (tougher looking)."

Designed by El Paso artists Henry Martinez and Mike Steirnagle, Sweet Pete was made by Roschu of Hollywood, the company that made costumes for Disney and Hanna-Barbera.

UTEP's new mascot made his debut at the UTEP-Texas Tech football game on Sept. 6, 1980, inside a box in the middle of Sun Bowl Stadium.

"It was exciting," Legarreta remembers. "I walked out of the box, so it was like a present, not only to UTEP, but to the city."

Legarreta, the student activities coordinator in 1980, was recruited by the dean of students, who thought Legarreta's outgoing personality would be a good fit for Pete.

That summer, while he was at cheerleading camp at the University of California, San Diego, Legarreta traveled to Los Angeles for a fitting at the Roschu studios.

When he tried on the costume, the sneakers that were built into the boots were too big.

"The people who designed it were expecting this 6-foot-4 cowboy with a mustache and muscles, and that just wasn't me!" said Legarreta, who described himself as short and stocky at the time. "They went ahead and redesigned a few things."

The cumbersome costume was claustrophobic and hot, and the 11-pound head sat on Legarreta's shoulders.

Yet, that didn't stop him from dancing the Cotton-Eyed Joe with the UTEP cheerleaders, posing for pictures with fans or mocking Coach Don Haskins at basketball games.

"I would always carry a magazine and roll it up just the way Coach Haskins used to,"

Legarreta said. "If somebody would make a call, he would get mad and he would throw the program on the floor, and I would do the same thing. He said I did a pretty good imitation of him."

After two years, Legarreta literally outgrew the costume and passed the reigns to Susanna Perez, the first female Paydirt Pete.

But Legarreta remained in the spotlight. In 1983, he and Greg Taylor, director of the UTEP Dinner Theatre, produced the theater's first musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Legarreta left UTEP the following year and moved to Dallas, where he was the ticket manager for the Dallas Opera. Three years later, he relocated to Washington, D.C., when he was offered the ticket manager position at the Washington National Opera. Legarreta returned to El Paso in 2012.

"I have season tickets for the UTEP football games, so I get to see Paydirt on a regular basis," Legarreta said. "He's come such a long way."

PAYDIRT PETE 2.0

In 1983, Richard Glass, an El Paso artist and former ballet dancer, designed Paydirt Pete II, a leaner and meaner version, with a major league swagger and a cigar jutting from the right side of his mouth.

The new Pete took eight weeks to construct, with Glass using a mannequin to sculpt the body. He made paper patterns to cut Pete's muscular arms, shoulders and chest out of high density foam.

"I made this muscle suit with the biceps and shoulders anatomically correct, so that whoever wore it would have this very muscular and powerful look to balance with the oversized

head,” Glass explained.

Pete’s musclemán look came in handy at the UTEP versus Brigham Young University basketball game on Feb. 9, 1985.

During the intense contest that went into triple overtime, a brawl broke out between the players and Pete was right in the middle, recalls Richard Bland, who was Paydirt Pete that fateful night at the Special Events Center (now the Don Haskins Center).

In 1985, Bland was in his final year at UTEP when a friend asked him if he wanted to be UTEP’s mascot.

“It was like, ‘If you want to do it, it’s yours,’” Bland said. “It was that easy, so I stepped in for the basketball season.”

Bland describes the season as a crazy time at UTEP. The University was nationally ranked. UTEP was still part of the Western Athletic Conference and the BYU Cougars were the Miners’ bitter rivals.

“Before the game, I chased the cougar around,” said Bland, a state investigator supervisor for the Missouri Department of Mental Health. “The teams came out, the game started, and it went great until the bench clearing. I was center court in the brawl.”

UTEP defeated BYU, 97-86. As Bland walked out carrying Pete’s head, he was approached by Haskell Monroe, UTEP’s president at the time.

Bland expected to be scolded. Instead, he was shocked when Monroe asked him if there was something he could do to take the cigar out of Pete’s mouth.

“He stunned me,” Bland said with a laugh. “I told him, ‘No you can’t do anything; it’ll ruin the mask.’ And it would have because you would have to cut (the cigar) out and I sure wasn’t going to do that.”



Adrian Marquez and David Permenter shared Paydirt Pete duties in 1992.

PETE KICKS THE HABIT

In 1986, Glass removed the cigar when he created the smoke-free version of Paydirt Pete.

The costume also underwent further improvements in 1992, when it was lined with fiberglass and vinyl for easier cleaning. The improvements were the result of a presentation

that David Permenter, who was Paydirt Pete for three years, gave to the UTEP Alumni Group.

Permenter split the mascot duties with his partner Ricardo Lujan.

“At the football games, we would switch roles at halftime, so whoever got (the costume) the second-half was the unlucky one who got to wear a sweaty costume,” Permenter said. “Thankfully that was usually not me because I was the punctual one and was in the costume first.”

Permenter graduated from UTEP with a marketing degree in 1993. He moved to Dallas and is a technical alliance manager for Riverbed Technology. Even though he left El Paso 20 years ago, he still gets nostalgic for Pete.

“There was this point in time where if somebody yelled ‘Pete,’ I would turn around,” Permenter said. “It was like my other name. It’s not even my middle name, but Pete was part of my identity for a fair period of time.”

MINER MAMBO

When it was Lujan’s turn to wear Paydirt Pete’s costume, he did more than greet fans and pose for pictures: Lujan gave Pete a voice.

Lujan died in 2003 at age 34. But his legacy will forever be linked with Pete’s, thanks to the Miner Mambo – a rap song he wrote and performed as Heavy P. and the Twin Posse in support of the UTEP basketball team. His performance of the song is on YouTube.

“He always wanted something bigger and better,” said Laura Duran, Lujan’s sister. “He didn’t just want to be on the sidelines cheering. He wanted to do something where he was going to shine and show his spirit for the school because he loved UTEP.”

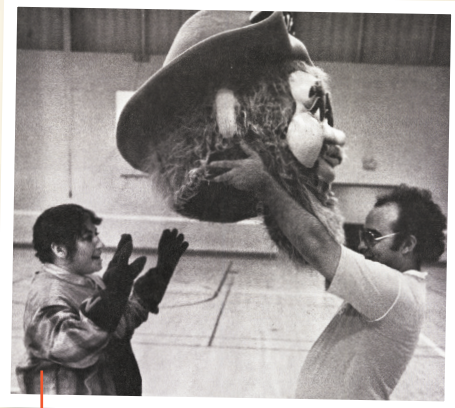
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO PETE?

In 1999, Paydirt Pete underwent a complete makeover. Pete traded in the mining helmet for a cowboy hat and mustache.

“(Athletics) wanted to go back to the original prospector image where (Paydirt Pete) was some salty old miner in the late 1800s,” Glass said.

Glass used the same mold for the face that he had used to create Pete’s predecessor. This time, however, he used latex for the skin and real hair for the mustache.

“He basically looked real except it was a caricature; it was an exaggeration of features, but the skin looked real, the coloring looked real, the eyebrows and eyelashes, it all looked real,” Glass said.



Jimmy Legarreta, UTEP’s first Paydirt Pete, crowns Susanna Perez, the first female to wear the costume.

DERANGED PETE

Unfortunately, Pete IV wasn’t around for very long before he was replaced by Pete V, a scraggly old miner with chubby cheeks and a thick long beard, who became known as “Deranged Pete,” in 2000.

Castillo was the last Miner to wear the Deranged Pete costume in 2004.

“He scared me,” said Castillo, laughing as she remembered. “But I did it anyway. He wasn’t as friendly looking.”

HITTING PAYDIRT

Castillo, a disc jockey for Power 102, was determined to become Paydirt Pete since before the start of her freshman year at UTEP.

The summer after she graduated from Loretto High School, she contacted UTEP Athletics and begged to try out. After she was given a chance to prove herself, Castillo became Paydirt Pete for the next four years.

The sixth incarnation of Paydirt Pete was introduced in 2005 and Castillo inaugurated the costume.

“Wearing the costume was amazing,” said Castillo, who graduated from UTEP in 2009. “It was a rush. I didn’t tell a soul until I stopped because I wanted to know what people thought. So, if somebody went to a game and they said, ‘Did you see what Paydirt Pete did?’ I’d say, ‘Tell me!’”

During her tenure, Castillo crowd surfed at basketball games, traveled to a bowl game with the football team, and even attended children’s birthday parties as Pete.

She finally decided to let Paydirt Pete go her junior year so she could focus on her studies.

“I really wanted to have the college experience and UTEP was very much a commuter school. By being Pete I was able to be on campus 24/7,” Castillo said. “Because of Pete, I feel like I had the complete college experience.”

“THE PERSON WHO BECOMES THE NEXT PAYDIRT PETE NEEDS TO HAVE PRIDE. YOU’RE REPRESENTING UTEP AND YOU’VE GOT TO BE EXCITED THAT YOU’RE PETE.”

Monica Castillo



GEAR UP FOR THE CENTENNIAL

A fun range of high-quality Centennial memorabilia is now available in the new Centennial Museum Welcome Center, with more to be rolled out at individual Centennial celebration events throughout 2014. Clothing, food, photographs and other collectibles will help you celebrate 100 years of UTEP history and memories.

By Lisa Y. Garibay • Photos by J.R. Hernandez





APPAREL:

T-shirts, ties, silk scarves and vintage clothing will give your outfit a UTEP Centennial flair.



CENTENNIAL WINE: Limited edition red and white wines have been vinted by the Miner Winery of Napa Valley, Calif. Both are available for purchase online at alumni.utep.edu/wine and are sponsored by the UTEP Alumni Association.



OTHER CENTENNIAL GEAR NOT PICTURED:

BOTTLED WATER:

Campus bottled water will sport newly designed Centennial labels.

COCA-COLA BOTTLES:

Eight-ounce glass bottles will carry the official Centennial logo and be packaged in a commemorative, limited edition six-pack.

COMMENCEMENT:

Members of the class of 2014 will receive special diplomas and wear special stoles and medallions during commencement ceremonies in May and December.

PROGRAMS:

Printed programs for the University's special events will become collectors' items and will include commemorative material. Student artwork designed especially for the Centennial Celebration will grace many of the covers. ➤

CENTENARIO SALSA PRODUCT LINE:

A salsa, chile con queso, bean dip and sour cream dip mix capture the distinctive flavors of the borderlands and of UTEP's unique history. The products are officially licensed and manufactured by Desert Pepper Trading Company. Blue and orange tortilla chips are available to go along with these delectable dips!



COLLECTIBLES:

Lapel pins, magnets, Christmas ornaments, jewelry, key chains, silicone wristbands, bookmarks and many other UTEP branded items will be sold in the Centennial Welcome Center gift shop.

COASTER SET:

Six mandalas from the walls of campus buildings inspired the design of these attractive coaster sets. Each coaster bears a different UTEP fact on the reverse side.



PHOTOGRAPHS:

Iconic images of UTEP will be made available on postcards, as posters for framing, and on a 2014 wall calendar that identifies Centennial events and activities.



RINGTONES:

The fight song, alma mater and other Miner music may be downloaded to a smartphone from the Centennial website.



Use your smartphone to scan this code to purchase Centennial merchandise or go to utep100years.com.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

A HISTORY OF HOUSING

By Nadia M. Whitehead

From accommodating the original 27 male Texas School of Mines students to soon having the capacity to provide a home-away-from-home for about 1,000 coed residents, housing at The University of Texas at El Paso has come a long way.

"The housing community is an essential building block for UTEP's strategic plan to increase the number of students who reside on campus," said Greg McNicol, associate vice president for business affairs - facilities services.

As part of the plan, the University will dramatically boost the number of students who call campus home in 2015 when it opens a new housing complex that could be expanded in the future to hold 3,000 beds.

Charlie Gibbens, Ed.D., director of residence life, believes that living in a dormitory on campus is a student's best option and bet for success, rather than living off campus.

"There is a ton of research that shows that students will graduate in a faster timeframe, have a higher G.P.A. and have a higher satisfaction with their overall college experience than their counterparts who live off campus," he said. "Campus housing is an excellent intermediary step between living with parents and graduating and going out on their own."

In addition to stimulating academic success, students who live in dormitories manage time better, make friends quicker and are more likely to get involved in campus activities.

Such campus activities often turn into celebrated Miner traditions and lore including the painting of the "M" on the mountain, bean feeds, the Homecoming Parade float-making party and a notorious alligator-in-the-office prank. These bits of camaraderie and tomfoolery first originated in the minds of campus students who have contributed to the heart and spirit of the University since 1914. Each student who has lived in a UTEP dormitory almost certainly has an interesting story to tell, such as goodnight kisses between lovers on the porch of Bell Hall at curfew or taking potshots at squirrels out of the windows of Miners and Hudspeth halls.

Here are some of the unique stories from the history of campus housing.



SEPTEMBER 1914

100 YEARS OF CAMPUS HOUSING TIMELINE

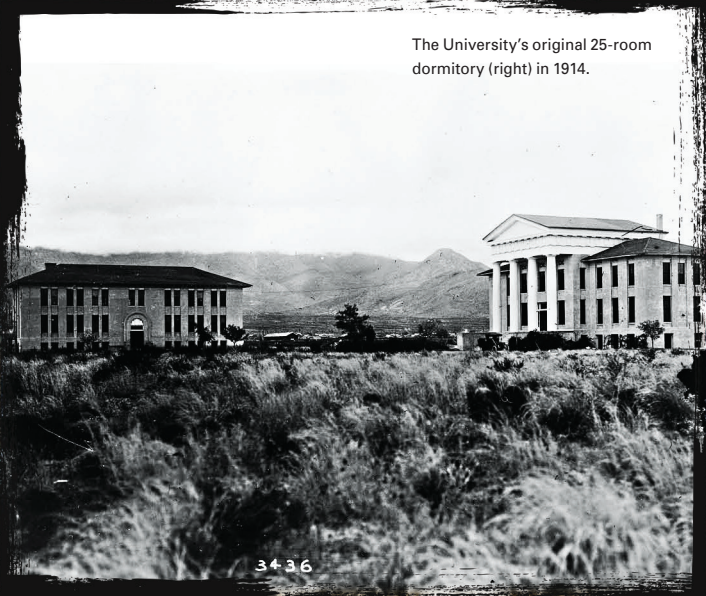
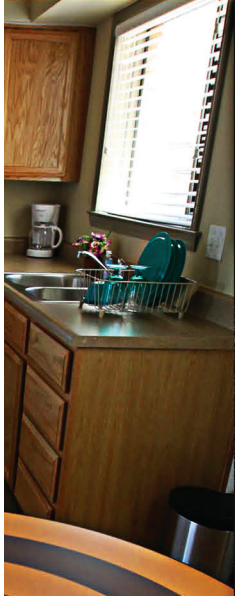
The first students enrolled at the Texas School of Mines – all men – are required to stay in a two-story, 25-room dormitory located on the original campus in Northeast El Paso (on what is now Fort Bliss).



Kelly Hall



Miners Hall



The University's original 25-room dormitory (right) in 1914.



Rendering of future complex



Miner Village

1917	1919	1936	1947-48	1940s-60s
<p>The college moves to the west side of the Franklin Mountains, where UTEP sits today. One of the first three buildings constructed on the new location is Graham Hall, a men's dormitory.</p>	<p>Built on Circle Drive, Vowell Hall is the first women's dormitory on campus. In 1921, it cost a student \$8 a month to rent a corner room or \$6 a month for any other room.</p>	<p>Named after the first dean of the School of Mines and Metallurgy, Worrell Hall opens for out-of-town male students.</p>	<p>Construction begins on two new dormitories. The new men's residence, known as Hudspeth Hall, sleeps 100 people. Conveniences include a washbasin in each room, a television, study lounges and a kitchen. The women's dorm, known as Bell Hall, has 50 rooms and a large dining room. The 1950 <i>Flowsheet</i> yearbook describes the dormitory as "Home for women away from home, curtains at the windows, carpets on the floors, a piano in the lobby ... farewell kisses at the door."</p>	<p>At the end of World War II, a special residence is established for returning veterans who are married and enrolling in college on the GI Bill. Known as both Vet Village and Wiggins Acres, it is composed of 20 small Navy trailers that are eventually replaced with surplus military buildings and a central bathhouse.</p>

Vet Village

About 60 years before the existence of Kelly, Barry and Burges halls and the Health Sciences and Nursing Building, a curious sight occupied that same plot of land between Wiggins Road and Sun Bowl Drive: 20 small U.S. Navy trailers with grass yards, picket fences and a multitude of diapers hanging from clotheslines.

Known as Vet Village or “maternity row,” the trailers were placed in 1946 for returning World War II veterans who were married and attending college on the GI Bill. The families shared a bathroom and laundry facility in a center building known as “the shed.”

Eventually as many as 72 additional trailers were added, and in 1947, some of the trailers were replaced by one- and two-bedroom apartments made from converted Army barracks.

“Vet Village was for married GIs, but it was heaven,” said John A. Phelan, who studied broadcast journalism at what was then known as the Texas College of Mines. “We had a beautiful view of the cement plant and ASARCO.” Phelan recalled sharing groceries with neighbors to make ends meet and getting free furniture donations from local El Pasoans.

“This was our first real, honest-to-goodness home since getting out of the service,” he said.

Although the village was not known for fancy facilities, it provided veterans with affordable rent, free utilities and the convenience of being close to campus.

According to a 1983 issue of *Nova*, the predecessor to *UTEP Magazine*, Karma Odell, a 1947 resident, remembered when the bathhouse heaters froze and broke during one particularly cold holiday break. When repairs were slow in coming, the women of Vet Village donned bathrobes, and with towels and soap in hand, marched over to then-President Dossie Wiggins’ home and demanded to use his shower. The heaters were promptly repaired.

Vet Village remained on campus until 1963, when apartments were built on Oregon Street to house married couples.



Famed UTEP Basketball coach Don Haskins and his family lived on campus in Miners Hall for two years during the 1960s.

Dorming with the Don

Famed UTEP basketball coach Don Haskins and his family — wife Mary and four sons — lived in Miners Hall along with about 100 male student-athletes for two years in the 1960s.

“When Don came here, they paid him \$6,000, plus we had our room and board at the dorm,” Mary Haskins said. “But we had certain duties we had to do at the dorm, too – like be there and stand guard and make sure that everyone behaved. Sometimes [Don] would walk down the halls on the second and third floors, and if there was any ruckus, he would make his presence known.”

But for the most part, Mary Haskins recalled that the athletes were very respectful, and life in the dorms was very pleasant.

The Haskins family was not placed in a typical cramped student dorm room. Instead, they lived on the first floor of the dormitory in a two-

bedroom apartment equipped with a seldom-used kitchen, living room and bathroom. They were provided two additional dorm rooms to use as a sewing room and separate bedroom for their two oldest sons. Mary had her personal washer and dryer hooked up in the basement, and had a swingset placed outside the front of the dormitory for her children.

“My little boys did sneak off on me a few times,” she said with a laugh. “It only happened once or twice, but if I couldn’t find them, or Don couldn’t, the campus police would come and help us. They’d see a little tyke out in the middle of campus where he shouldn’t be and scoop him up. It made me feel inadequate – that I’d lost them – but I mean, we didn’t have a fenced-in yard.”

“When Don came and told me that we were going to move and buy our own house, I was sad,” she added. “I didn’t want to leave. I loved it.”

1950	1963	1971	1973
Miners Hall is constructed as a dorm for Texas Western College’s male student athletes. It houses 72 athletes until the early 1970s, when the athletes move to Burges Hall.	To accommodate the growing number of students at Texas Western College, Burges Hall, a new male dormitory, is built on University Avenue. Burges Hall is the first dormitory on campus to offer refrigerated air-conditioning. UTEP Village, an apartment complex for students with families, is built in 1963-64 where Miner Village is now located. The complex consists of 13 individual buildings.	The University builds and opens its first high-rise dormitories on Sun Bowl Drive at the campus’ western entrance. The nine-story Barry Hall provides ample room for about 400 students and Kelly Hall, at seven stories, has the capacity to house 300. At the same time, UTEP acquires the Campbell Building downtown for its School of Nursing. The building facilitates nursing dorms for women and education classrooms. For many years, the building only contains women’s restrooms.	UTEP revokes its parietal rules, allowing students to choose the option of dorm living. To attract students, Kelly and Barry Hall become co-educational, allowing both men and women to reside in the same dormitory building, but on separate floors.



A rendering of the future complex that will house students off Sun Bowl Drive.

The Great Panty Raid

A college craze swept through the United States in the early 1950s, making headlines in newspapers including *The New York Times* and *Chicago Tribune*. Known as “panty raids,” the prank involved perpetrators who would sneak into victims’ living quarters and steal their unmentionables.

On May 24, 1952, Texas Western College joined the craze.

Singing “The Eyes of Texas are Upon You,” approximately 50 male students approached Bell Hall, an all-female dorm, but were hesitant to attack because they did not want to get in trouble with the University. However, the female students had already girded themselves for battle — a long row of undergarments dangled from window to window across the second floor — and seeing the gentlemen’s lack of drive, the ladies waved their garments out the windows, taunting and daring them to raid the dorm.

The boys charged.

According to one TWC alum who was at the raid, but wishes to remain anonymous, “Unknown to us was the fact that [TWC] President “Bull” Elkins would open the door and block the entrance. I grant you it was quite a

shock to see Bull standing there.”
An *El Paso Times* article published the next day reported that a group of male students regained their spirit and scaled a building next to the dormitory. They used a ladder on the roof of the cafeteria to enter the third floor of Bell Hall and complete their mission.

The Future

This past summer the University kicked off what President Diana Natalicio said could be “the most ambitious and most exciting” phase of its student housing history yet.

A new \$23 million project will create a 103,606-square-foot complex with 83 units that will house 352 students in options ranging from one-bedroom efficiencies to four- and six-bed suites. Each unit will have a small kitchen, living area and bathroom. The buildings themselves will be equipped with lobbies, lounges, study rooms and laundry facilities.

When the project is completed, the capacity for on-campus housing will increase to approximately 1,000 students, and these new residents are sure to generate future stories, memories and a bit of harmless mischief of their own. 🏠

CENTENNIAL STORIES

The holidays often are a time when families and friends gather to celebrate their common bonds. Even if only a memory, we recall moments and people who helped shape our lives. Some reflections could include family sacrifices made in the pursuit of an academic degree and a better life. The University of Texas at El Paso is like an extended family, where the lessons learned and relationships created as a student, faculty or staff member, and forged through labs, clubs, teams and committees leave a mark on our souls and a smile on our faces. The collectors of Centennial Stories are interested in UTEP-related reflections about moms, dads, peers or professors who inspired us. Send your story electronically to centennialstories@utep.edu and it will become part of the Centennial Celebration Oral History in the University Library’s Special Collections. If you prefer pen and paper, send your story to UTEP Magazine, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968. Go Miners!

2001	2010	2015
Miner Village, a 13-building complex, opens. Its maximum capacity is 428 students.	Miner Heights is developed on Schuster Avenue and provides 80 units with space for 200 residential students.	Nestled among a series of hills and a natural arroyo at the north end of campus, a new residence complex – which will include two apartment-style residence halls and a community building – will be completed with 352 beds. The total capacity of on-campus student living will increase to about 1,000.




CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

By Daniel Perez

WHAT'S UNDERNEATH

CAMPUS TRANSFORMATION CREATES
OPPORTUNITY TO UPGRADE UTILITIES

A large, weathered excavator bucket is the central focus, filled with a mix of brown soil and small, light-colored rocks. The bucket is positioned in the foreground, with its teeth pointing downwards. In the background, the dark silhouette of a building with multiple rooflines is visible against a dramatic, overcast sky with heavy, grey clouds. The overall scene suggests a construction or excavation site.

Close your eyes for a moment and let your imagination take you to the not-so-distant future where you are strolling around UTEP's tree-lined Centennial Plaza. You occasionally stop along the multi-textured paseo to read historical entries along the ringed interior and then sit with friends on a concrete bench near a short metal bridge that spans a rocky arroyo that leads to the Geology Lawn.

This is the new heart of The University of Texas at El Paso.



The Centennial Plaza takes shape around the new *lhakhang*, a gift from the people of Bhutan to the United States that will be used as a cultural center.



“The reliability of utilities – especially electricity – plays an important role in the University’s robust research program, which attracts many faculty and students who want to be part of UTEP’s trajectory to be a Tier One institution.”

Cynthia “Cindy” Villa, vice president of business affairs

BEEP ... BEEP ... BEEP ... BEEP.

Opening your eyes, you find one of the many six-ton excavators signaling its intent to back up from a deep trench it helped create within the Centennial Plaza construction zone that borders Union Building West and the Administration, Geological Sciences and Psychology buildings. Like a choreographed dance, back hoes, front-end loaders and breaking hammers do their jobs, which include creating a planned utility corridor that will take a circular route around the western edge of the 11-acre plaza, starting from the north.

Scheduled for completion during the fall 2014 semester, the plaza will be part of the legacy of the University’s 100th anniversary celebration. The grassy, picturesque setting will offer a safe, pedestrian-friendly atmosphere where students, faculty, staff and visitors can gather for everything from small academic discussions to large community gatherings.

While the plaza is the apogee of UTEP’s ambitious Campus Transformation plan, the guts of the project are what lies underneath the turf, concrete and landscaping – the utility and service lines that will provide the University with the necessary power to grow its robust research agenda as it becomes a top-tier (national

research) institution.

“It would not have been prudent to do all this landscaping without first taking care of the campus support systems, its infrastructure,” said Greg McNicol, associate vice president for business affairs–facilities management. “It goes toward our goal for Tier One. Giving that researcher the reliability in the (utility) system is important to them. To do otherwise could disrupt their work.”

Contractors have spent most of the past few months breaking through sub-surface bedrock that probably had not seen daylight in 100 years to create wide channels up to 18 feet deep. The lone treasure collected during the dig was a buckled, rusted metal wheel near Old Main that probably belonged to a wheelbarrow.

Utility crews were expected to layer the various lines, which have diameters ranging from three to 24 inches, starting with the sanitary sewer lines, followed by natural gas, hydronics, (chilled and steamed water), potable water lines, information technology, storm sewers and electrical conduits. As each layer is completed, the systems will be switched over to the new lines and then buried. The new lines, which can be located with global positioning systems, replace counterparts that have been in use for up

to 90 years in some cases.

The University also is upsizing the infrastructure to safely handle increased loads as well as adapt and expand with the campus as it grows, said Nestor Infanzon, director of planning and construction. For example, the University will get a third electrical line to improve redundancy, add capacity, provide room to grow and guard against any blackouts during heavy energy use in the summer.

“Technology has allowed for more power and more service in less space,” Infanzon said. “We’re creating a stronger support backbone.”

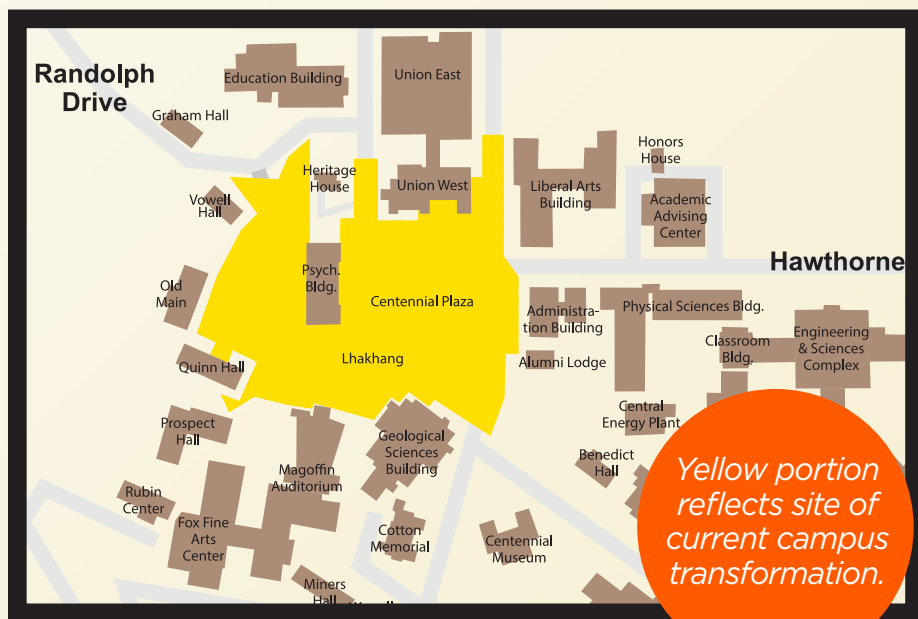
The University of Texas Board of Regents understood the value and necessity of the enhanced infrastructure when it approved a \$10 million allocation from its Permanent University Fund in August to help pay for the vital improvements.

“The reliability of utilities – especially electricity – plays an important role in the University’s robust research program, which attracts many faculty and students who want to be part of UTEP’s trajectory to be a Tier One institution,” said Cynthia “Cindy” Villa, vice president of business affairs. “Part of that includes having reliable utility services.”

UTEP leaders have worked diligently to



Here is a southern view of the plaza in progress.



Yellow portion reflects site of current campus transformation.

follow the Sustainable Sites Initiative, national guidelines for site development that reduce the environmental impact of landscapes. They include recommendations for site design, implementation and maintenance such as the pesticides and herbicides that will be used. They even take lawn mower emissions into account. There also is extra protection for vulnerable green spaces within the work zone, such as the fenced off area behind the Psychology Building and the planked trees along University Avenue outside Union Building East.

In the same vein, University officials have spent a lot of time selecting the types of materials that will house the utility and service lines. Many incorporate recycled materials and the most current and sophisticated technologies.

Jorge Villalobos, Ph.D., director of Facilities Services, said some of the new pipes would be insulated with Aerogel, a light material developed by NASA that is considered the world's best thermal insulator.

"That is truly a space-age material going into the ground here," Villalobos said. ☑

IT ALL STARTS WITH LIBERAL ARTS...

TAKING YOU WHERE YOU WANT TO GO!

UTEP'S COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.UTEP.EDU/LIBARTS



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Centennial Plaza

Ready to Take Giant Turn Toward Completion

By Daniel Perez



The renderings of UTEP's Centennial Plaza, with its expansive green splash of Bermuda hybrid grass, large mesquite shade trees, wide multi-textured paseos, long concrete benches, timeline ring, and adjacent arroyo have been a dream since The University of Texas at El Paso began to hone its Campus Transformation plans several years ago.

University students, faculty and staff have dealt with the dust and detours associated with the construction project in anticipation of what the campus, and this site in particular, will become – an inviting 11-acre oasis where people can gather comfortably in a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere.

After months of waiting as contractors graded and dug up the ground to install the underground infrastructure that is vital to

UTEP's Tier One plan, the project is shifting from dream to reality as the work shifts from underground to above ground. The finished product, which is scheduled for completion in fall 2014, will include a 20-foot wide walking path around the grassy center.

"[People] will begin to see the progress with the stuff on top of the ground – the hard-scape and landscaping will start popping in," said Greg McNicol, associate vice president of business affairs–facilities management.

Victoria Saenz is increasingly curious how the makeover will turn out. The freshman health promotions major has seen the renderings and wants to know how it will compare to the real thing.

"I think it's going to look great. Change is good," she said while taking a break under a

tree at Leech Grove. She looked toward the construction zone as several heavy vehicles broke rock or scooped out trenches. "Every now and then I peek through the holes in the fence, but all I've seen so far is a bunch of dirt."

Junior biology major Richard Gutierrez said he was excited about the transformation and looked forward to using the plaza to study, practice yoga, and meet friends before University events including football games.

Gutierrez, who often uses a bicycle to get around campus, said closing the campus core to most vehicles will make his commute easier.

The plaza is among several projects in some phase of completion. Here are two more.



1. Pedestrians are protected from some of the construction dust by the lining on the chain-link fence in front of UTEP's Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center. 2. Patient motorists use Sun Bowl Drive, which is in the middle of a widening project. 3. Landscapers use native vegetation and drought-resistant species to beautify the grounds as part of the transformation. 4. The Schuster roundabout on the southern edge of campus was completed before the start of the fall 2013 semester. It is part of the Texas Department of Transportation's Spur 1966 project that will use a bridge to connect Schuster with Paisano Drive and the rest of Loop 375.

Sun Bowl Drive Widening

Texas Department of Transportation contractors expect to finish work on the southbound lanes of Sun Bowl Drive by the end of 2013. Work on the northbound lanes and the University's third roundabout at the intersection of Sun Bowl and Glory Road should start in January. As a result, a small portion of Glory Road will be shut down for the duration of the \$4.8 million, 10-month project that started in late September. The enhancements to this important north-south corridor include the addition of a lane in each direction and a wider outside lane to accommodate bicycle traffic, ample sidewalks on both sides, enhanced roadside lighting and the roundabout. Motorists maintain access to one lane in each direction for the most part, but for safety reasons, pedestrians

have been detoured away from the job site that spans from just north of the Sun Bowl Parking Garage to just south of the Don Haskins Center.

Spur 1966

After completing the University's second roundabout in August on Schuster Avenue, the Texas Department of Transportation began to focus on the second phase of the \$31 million Spur 1966 project, which is the overpass that will connect Paisano Drive – part of Loop 375 – and Schuster Avenue at the roundabout. Contractors have been doing preparation work at the site, which includes removing the Yandell Drive bridge and relocating some sanitary sewer and storm sewer lines. They expect to finish drilling 72 underground shafts – each an average of 50 feet deep and 8 feet in diameter – in early

2014. The overpass support columns will be set in those holes. Starting in 2014, onlookers will begin to see the columns going up in the work zone at UTEP and around Interstate 10, the railroad tracks and Paisano. The columns will be at least 17 feet above the ground level. ➡



Use your smartphone to scan this code to read the latest campus transformation updates at onthemove.utep.edu.

UTEP FEATURES

For nearly 400 incoming students, New Miner Convocation marked the beginning of their academic journey at UTEP. >

Students recited the new UTEP Student Creed and promised to uphold the UTEP ideals of engagement, respect and excellence.



To commemorate New Miner Convocation, students were given orange UTEP pickaxe lapel pins to pin on during the ceremony.



UTEP WELCOMES NEW MINERS

By Laura L. Acosta • Photos by Niki Rhynes

Richard D. Pineda, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Communication, challenged incoming students to use their talents and skills to get involved in University life.

WELCOME





“Thousands of people have taken this path before you. After your graduation, you will touch the lives of uncountable others. UTEP unites us all now, as we step forward together into a second century as one of the top universities in the nation.”

Keith A. Erikson, Ph.D., assistant professor of history and executive director of UTEP's Centennial Celebration

On Sunday, Aug. 25, the day before the start of the 2013 fall semester, pride and optimism filled the Don Haskins Center as The University of Texas at El Paso welcomed the newest members of the Miner Nation.

For nearly 400 incoming UTEP students and their family members, the inaugural New Miner Convocation marked the beginning of their academic journey by initiating a lifelong connection between the new Miners, their families, and a distinguished and fiercely proud UTEP family.

“You are already a part of UTEP's grand and enduring legacy,” said UTEP President Diana Natalico during the 90-minute ceremony. “You will forever be linked to UTEP, to each other and the worldwide family of alumni upon whose achievements the University's long-standing reputation for excellence stands firm.”

The celebration introduced first-time freshmen, new transfer students and entering graduate students to the academic component of the University, and to its traditions of service, access and excellence.

“It's also a ceremony to welcome the family to the UTEP community,” said Donna Ekal, Ph.D., associate provost for undergraduate studies at UTEP. “The decision to attend college is one that usually involves the entire family, and we want them to know that UTEP recognizes the important role they play in their students' success.”

Echoing the University's Commencement ceremonies, the new Miners assembled at Memorial Gym before the start of the ceremony, then walked across the street to the Don Haskins Center. Faculty members wore full regalia and students marched up the center aisle to their seats. The moment gave them a preview of what to expect when they graduate from UTEP in a few years.

Gabriel and Gabriela Saucedo beamed with pride as they watched their eldest son, Enrique,

from the stands in the arena.

“We're very excited and very nervous because he is our first son to attend college,” Gabriela Saucedo said. “We are learning as parents how to be a guide for our son in this new stage of his life.”

Enrique Saucedo's cheering section included his grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and younger brother.

“I feel really inspired and proud,” Enrique Saucedo said after the ceremony. The 19-year-old freshman graduated from Riverside High School in June. “I feel excited and motivated to finish my studies (at UTEP).”

As the University prepares to celebrate its 100-year anniversary in 2014, New Miner Convocation was a special way for incoming students and their families to begin a very special time at UTEP.

During the ceremony, Keith A. Erikson, Ph.D., assistant professor of history and executive director of UTEP's Centennial Celebration, told students how they could contribute to UTEP's rich history of service, opportunity and excellence.

“You take this next step in your career at a momentous time in UTEP's history,” Erikson said. “Thousands of people have taken this path before you. After your graduation, you will touch the lives of uncountable others. UTEP unites us all now, as we step forward together into a second century as one of the top universities in the nation.”

Other speakers included Guillermina “Gina” Núñez-Mchiri, Ph.D., assistant professor of anthropology, who challenged students to use their talents and skills to get involved in the University and stay engaged until graduation.

Richard D. Pineda, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Communication and director of the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies, remembered how he grew up six blocks away from UTEP and how

his mother, who was in the audience, allowed him to explore campus.

He thanked her for helping him succeed in college and urged parents to follow her example and support their children's decisions, encourage them to participate in internships and study-abroad opportunities and join their students in campus activities.

“I hope that you will take this as an invitation not only to come to campus, but to see us and engage with us and work with us to make this an unparalleled educational opportunity,” Pineda said.

After Pineda's remarks, UTEP Student Government Association President Paulina Lopez led the new Miners in reciting the new UTEP Student Creed, which was written by students, faculty and staff. The new Miners promised to uphold the UTEP ideals of engagement, respect and excellence.

To commemorate the occasion, they were given orange UTEP pickaxe lapel pins, which were designed exclusively for New Miner Convocation.

Family members also received a Family Guide to help them offer their students support to succeed at UTEP.

New UTEP student Megan Hastings, who transferred from El Paso Community College to study social work at the University, was greeted with a shout of “I love you mom!” from her children, Michael and Catherine.

Hastings' husband, Michael Rey, said his wife was setting a great example for their kids.

“We definitely want them to go to college,” Rey said. “(Megan) completing something that started 10 years ago is a great step in the right direction. I'm proud of her today, but obviously, when she graduates, it's going to be a huge moment for our family.”

Former NASA astronaut and UTEP alumnus John "Danny" Olivas, Ph.D., has been named The University of Texas at El Paso's director of space initiatives. He will lead the newly established Center for the Advancement of Space Safety and Mission Assurance Research (CASSMAR). Photo by J.R. Hernandez



By Nadia M. Whitehead

DANNY OLIVAS,

UTEP TO IMPROVE HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT SAFETY

Former NASA astronaut and UTEP alumnus John "Danny" Olivas, Ph.D., has landed at The University of Texas at El Paso as director of space initiatives. He will also lead the newly established Center for the Advancement of Space Safety and Mission Assurance Research (CASSMAR).

"The U.S. is at the dawn of a new era of space exploration, so I am thrilled about this development," said Olivas, who earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from UTEP in 1989. "[The University] has the right people, and the right facilities and capabilities to do this work. Plus, it sits in close proximity to nearby spaceports. It just makes sense to have CASSMAR here."

CASSMAR will serve as a cross-functional, multidisciplinary center focused on risk reduction research to make commercial human spaceflight safe and successful.

As part of the University's new research focus, NASA's Columbia Research and Preservation Office at the Kennedy Space Center has loaned UTEP several significant debris pieces from the Space Shuttle Columbia, which disintegrated upon reentering the Earth's atmosphere in 2003, killing its seven crew members. Faculty and students will initially focus on previously unstudied materials-behavior issues that have been observed in the specimens.

"The legacy of Columbia is really about learning. Researchers

investigating her will learn what we can do to be safer in the future so that accidents like this do not happen again," Olivas said. "Students are going to have a unique opportunity to become a part of the leading edge of space exploration. These future space pioneers will be doing research in new areas of research as well as areas that have never been fully explored for applicability to space environments."

Four UTEP students already have joined the new center's efforts and begun studying the fragments of the shuttle. They are graduate metallurgical and materials engineering students Brenda Arellano and Mayra Contreras, and materials science and engineering doctoral students Jessica Buckner and Darren Cone.

Buckner is studying a structural component from the shuttle known as the crew module x-links and is trying to determine how and why it failed during reentry.

"There's so much talk about commercial spaceflight these days, it's important that we have a better understanding of past failures to prevent them from happening again," she said.

In total, UTEP researchers will study four large pieces of debris, which weigh approximately 750 pounds and include controlling actuators, overhead windows of the shuttle and major structural components.

"Each of the Shuttle Columbia pieces we have contain significant

“THERE’S SO MUCH TALK ABOUT COMMERCIAL SPACEFLIGHT THESE DAYS, IT’S IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PAST FAILURES TO PREVENT THEM FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.”

Jessica Buckner
Materials Science and Engineering doctoral student

and unstudied characteristics of the entry environment which will demonstrate the need for deeper investigation and understanding,” Olivas said. “Some of the very same materials are being used in the aerospace industry today. Engineers are designing spacecraft with limited knowledge of how these materials react in the reentry environment. Our goal is to perform the necessary research to broaden knowledge for the entire space ferrying community.”

CASSMAR will not only involve the College of Engineering, but the colleges of Science, Business Administration, Education and even Liberal Arts.

The center’s Executive Council is a diverse team of UTEP experts: Ann Gates, Ph.D., chair and professor of computer science and director of UTEP’s Cyber-ShARE Center of Excellence; Steve Stafford, Ph.D., professor of metallurgical and materials engineering; and Aaron Velasco, Ph.D., chair and professor of geological sciences.

The Executive Council has ties to multiple research centers housed at UTEP and will work synergistically with CASSMAR. Cyber-ShARE is a state-of-the-art computer science center that can support CASSMAR’s needs in knowledge, data sharing and integration. The Future Aerospace Science and Technology (FAST) Center will be a magnet for aerospace science and technology research by linking academic and entrepreneurial opportunities to NASA, the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy.

CASSMAR will also partner with the NASA-affiliated Center for Space Exploration Technology Research (cSETR), which conducts innovative research in propulsion and energy engineering. Key projects in cSETR include studying liquid methane as a form of green fuel to power future space shuttles and the construction of bricks using moon dust to create structures on the moon. Also, the NASA Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy (SEMAA) and Aerospace Education Lab (AEL) will work with CASSMAR to enhance access and opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics for K-12 students.

“Spaceflight is a collaborative solution,” Olivas said. “As an astronaut, you don’t get to space on your own; you stand on the shoulders of giants who put you there.”



UTEP President Diana Natalicio and President Morio Matsunaga, Ph.D., of Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to form an institutional partnership to advance aerospace technology. Photo by J.R. Hernandez

REACHING FOR THE STARS: UTEP, KYUTECH TO BUILD SUBORBITAL SPACECRAFT

By Nadia M. Whitehead

In the next five years, The University of Texas at El Paso plans to go to space – literally.

“With you all, I want to launch WIRES X, an unmanned suborbital vehicle that will take us 100 kilometers up into space,” Koichi Yonemoto, Ph.D., of Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech), told a large group of UTEP engineers during his visit to the University in July.

Only half an hour earlier, UTEP had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Japan’s Kyutech and formed a partnership to research and advance aerospace technology together.

During the past few years, Yonemoto has been developing a reusable winged rocket he hopes to launch in conjunction with UTEP from Spaceport America in Sierra, N.M. – a launch site dedicated to commercial space flight, and which may someday be the first to take adventurous customers into space.

“Many of our students will be working on this,” said Ahsan Choudhuri, Ph.D., chair and professor of mechanical engineering at UTEP, who has been collaborating with Yonemoto for more than two years. “This vehicle is going to be built here at UTEP facilities and will not only serve as a technology test bed, but have other missions as well.”

By the time it is complete, WIRES X is expected to weigh 4.6 tons and reach 27 feet, and hundreds of engineering students will have had the unique opportunity to work with a very complex engineering system, including the space vehicle’s aerodynamics, navigation, guidance and propulsion systems.

“This partnership reflects our strategy to make this region a commercial space hub,” said Choudhuri, who directs the Center for Space Exploration Technology Research at UTEP. “There is already an interest in this region for aerospace [projects], so we are going to capitalize on this by placing ourselves as the strategic lead of capabilities for commercial space exploration activities.”

In addition to working with Spaceport America, the University expects to collaborate with Blue Origin, LLC, an aerospace company that plans to develop technology to enable private human access to space. The company has a launch and test facility nearby in Van Horn, Texas.

NEW BIOMEDICAL DEVICE TO SILENCE

Whooping Cough

By Laura L. Acosta

A low-cost tool for diagnosing whooping cough in low-resource settings is on the horizon at The University of Texas at El Paso.

UTEP faculty members Delfina C. Domínguez, Ph.D., professor of clinical laboratory sciences, and XiuJun “James” Li, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry, have joined efforts to produce a paper-based biochip that can be used in schools, clinics and developing nations to detect pertussis, also known as whooping cough.

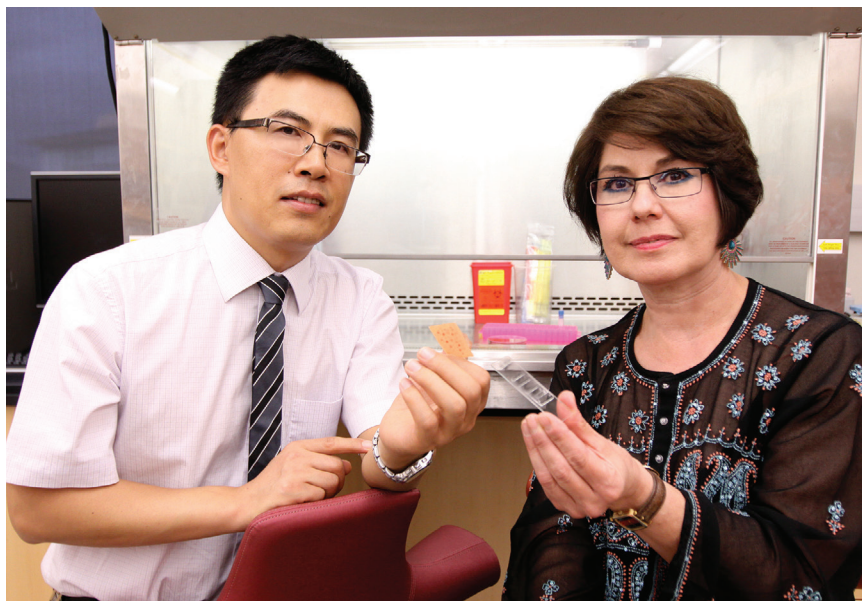
Whooping cough is an infectious disease caused by the *Bordetella pertussis* bacteria. Once believed to be eradicated in the United States, the highly contagious respiratory infection is making a comeback.

In September, the Texas Department of State Health Services issued a Pertussis Health Alert, which indicated that 1,935 pertussis cases were reported as of August, a disturbing statistic that showed the state was on track to surpass its 50-year record of 3,358 cases in 2009.

“Whooping cough is hard to diagnose because people think it’s just a cough or some type of allergy and they don’t seek medical attention,” Domínguez said.

Pertussis mimics symptoms of the common cold: runny nose, sneezing, mild cough, fever and fatigue. After two weeks, symptoms worsen, resulting in a hacking cough that sounds like a “whoop” when a person gasps for air.

In 2012, more than 41,000 cases of whooping cough were reported in the United States; the highest number in 60 years.



XiuJun “James” Li, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry, and Delfina C. Domínguez, Ph.D., professor of clinical laboratory sciences, have joined efforts to produce a paper-based biochip that can be used in schools, clinics and developing nations to detect pertussis, also known as whooping cough.

“The incredible thing is that we have a vaccine, but the organism is still circulating,” Domínguez said.

Early diagnosis can make the infection less severe and prevent it from spreading.

Using chromatography paper, Li has developed a three-dimensional, paper-based microfluidic device that uses DNA amplification to provide a rapid, low-cost and highly sensitive method to diagnose whooping cough. The procedure involves placing a sample from a nasal swab in a device similar to a pregnancy test strip that will change color to indicate the presence of the bacteria. Results are available in 40 minutes.

“It’s affordable, portable and has lots of advantages,” Domínguez said, referring to the biochip. “For example, if a student is coughing in school, they go to the nurse, who can swab a sample (from inside) the nose, put it in a

small tube containing saline, swirl it several times and then transfer a couple of drops into the device. If positive, a color change will indicate the presence of bacteria.”

It is similar to a device Li developed with a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences to detect meningitis.

“This device can have a wide range of applications, because (with) many pathogens, we know their DNA sequence already,” said Li, who conducted postdoctoral work on microfluidics at Harvard University and the University of California, Berkeley. “So once we know their DNA sequence, we can modify the DNA code or slightly modify the device to create a wider use for it to detect infectious diseases or foodborne pathogens.”

While Li’s role was to design the chip, he needed to collaborate with Domínguez, a

FACULTY PROFILE: XIUJUN (JAMES) LI, PH.D.



POSITION:

Assistant professor of chemistry, biomedical engineering, materials science and engineering, and in the Border Biomedical Research Center.

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in bioanalytical chemistry, Simon Fraser University

HOBBIES:

Tennis, photography, travel, swimming and playing with my little kids

I CHOSE MY CAREER BECAUSE...

I love science and technology. I can enjoy both from my current career. Meanwhile, I hope to contribute something beneficial to human health.

MY GREATEST INSPIRATION IS...

nature.

BOTH RESEARCHERS AGREE THAT THE DEVICE IS IDEAL FOR USE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHERE ACCESS TO EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT IS LIMITED OR NONEXISTENT.

microbiology expert, to determine the chip's effectiveness.

Once the chip is out of the design phase, Domínguez will validate its effectiveness by using it to test positive and negative clinical samples from patients. In June, Domínguez and Li were awarded a \$5,000 grant from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). The funds were used to initiate the construction of the device and to obtain clinical samples.

Both researchers agree that the device is ideal for use in developing countries where access to expensive equipment is limited or nonexistent.

Figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that there are 30 million to 50 million pertussis cases worldwide and about 300,000 deaths each year related to the disease. Ninety percent of cases occur in the developing world, with the highest infection rate among children in countries where vaccination coverage is low.

Li estimates that the material cost to produce the chip is only a few cents. The device also eliminates the need for expensive equipment to perform diagnostic procedures, such as real-time PCR, a technology that costs about \$45,000.

Instead, Li is applying the loop mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) technique, a new DNA amplification technique, on the chip using a \$100 battery-powered portable heater that his group recently designed. The innovation not only eliminates the need for expensive real-time PCR equipment to diagnose infectious diseases, but also creates the capability to do on-site disease diagnosis.

"Those locations may not have the money

for equipment and labs, or trained personnel to carry out the procedures. They may not even have electricity. So the question is, how can we solve this issue?" Li said.

For undergraduate and graduate students, the project also provides an opportunity to participate in hands-on research involving different disciplines. Maowei Dou, a doctoral chemistry student, is assisting Li with the biochip.

Renee Enriquez, a senior in the clinical laboratory sciences program, is a volunteer in Domínguez's lab. She is applying the molecular techniques she's learned in class to inoculate cultures and extract DNA from bacteria. She is also learning the LAMP technique from Li.

"The device is going to be better for more impoverished areas because you don't need to have all this equipment," said Enriquez, who hopes to attend medical school. "It's just on one little chip. You run it, you see if there's a color change. Any person could do it."

Li's interest in bioanalysis was piqued when he was studying antioxidant properties of common herbs and vegetables as an undergraduate student at Qingdao University in China. He has been working on chip design for the past 10 years and sees it as an opportunity to do something that could be beneficial to the biomedical field, he said.

For Domínguez, working with Li has opened up a panorama of knowledge that has led to new advances in their research agendas.

"If it were just me by myself, I would never be able to accomplish this," Domínguez said. "Collaboration will empower you because two brains are better than one." 📌

FACULTY PROFILE: DELFINA CISNEROS DOMÍNGUEZ, PH.D.



POSITION:

Professor of clinical laboratory sciences

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in molecular biology from New Mexico State University

HOBBIES:

Swimming

MY GREATEST INSPIRATION IS...

my mom.

I CHOSE MY CAREER BECAUSE...

since I was a child, I wanted to learn about microbes.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

you keep learning and get to be with young, talented people.

UTEP SCHOOL OF NURSING



As the American health care system undergoes change, the UTEP School of Nursing is leading the way in educating nurses to meet 21st century health care standards by:

- Increasing the number of nurses with bachelor's degrees to 80 percent by 2020
- Doubling the number of nurses with a doctorate by 2020
- Implementing nurse residency programs

Join the health care revolution.
Nursing.utep.edu

EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION, DIVERSITY



NEW INSTITUTE PROMOTES

Healthy Living

By Laura L. Acosta

A healthy lifestyle is more than cutting calories and occasional exercise. It involves a commitment to eating nutritious meals and snacks, engaging in regular physical activity and living tobacco free. The rewards not only include a slimmer waistline, but also a healthier heart, a lower risk of chronic diseases and a reduction in health care costs.

A new initiative involving The University of Texas at El Paso will engage community leaders, organizations and agencies to promote healthy lifestyles through public policy, nutrition and physical activity that will enhance the quality of life for generations of residents in the Paso del Norte region.

In August, the Paso Del Norte Health Foundation (PdNHF) launched the Paso del Norte Institute for Healthy Living, a four-institutional partnership between the PdNHF, UTEP, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health and The Texas Tech University Health Science Center-Paul L. Foster School of Medicine.

Funded with an initial \$2.2 million for 5 years, the institute will leverage the resources of the three universities to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce obesity among people living along the U.S.-Mexico border region, especially children and youth.

"The PdNHF currently has funded a great deal of ongoing activity with schools,

governmental agencies and community organizations, and our three universities will help to advance our capacity in this region to plan and implement evidence-based programs and to effectively evaluate how they're making a difference," said College of Health Sciences Dean Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D., the institute's principal investigator.

Examples of that activity include the Community Gardens projects, which teach children about nutrition, physical activity and volunteerism, and the city's Eat Well! El Paso program that promotes healthy food options for children and their families.

According to a study by the American Heart Association (AHA), participants in community-based programs who focused on improving nutrition and increasing physical activity had a 58 percent reduction in incidence of type 2 diabetes compared with drug therapy, which had a 31 percent reduction.

The same study found that most cardiovascular disease can be prevented or at least delayed until old age through a combination of direct medical care and community-based prevention programs and policies.

Faculty, staff and students from all three campuses will combine efforts to promote healthy lifestyles; advance proper nutrition

and physical activity across the region; and promote regional leadership and provide technical assistance to implement evidence-based approaches to foster healthy eating and active living in neighborhoods, schools, public facilities and business.

"The problems around healthy eating and active living accessibility and affordability have become so profound that we need a central, strong institute to take us to the next level and help us coordinate our efforts," said Michael P. Kelly, Ph.D., senior program officer for the Paso del Norte Health Foundation. Efforts include grant and policy development, program evaluation and media campaign design. "The institute really brings together expertise in these areas so that we're not making just small incremental changes. Hopefully we can really accelerate change for the better," Kelly said.

The institute's first order of business is to recruit an executive director who has experience leading health initiatives on a national level and who will develop the framework for the institute. As part of the recruiting process, UTEP hosted open forums where candidates shared their expertise with the community. Officials expect to hire an executive director, as well as a coordinator and administrative analyst for the institute, by 2014.

Kurt Gross, president of Strategy Ranch, a consulting firm for health care organizations,



Alexandra Alba, left, health promotion junior, Jasmine Guerra, senior psychology major, and Naomi Rodriguez, health promotion senior, stroll down UTEP's walking trail.

Next page: UTEP College of Health Sciences Dean Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D., discusses the mission of the new Paso del Norte Institute for Healthy Living at a press conference Aug. 13 at the Paso del Norte Health Foundation's offices. She is joined by Jacob Cintron, chief executive officer of Del Sol Medical Center, and UTEP President Diana Natalicio.



“THE INSTITUTE FOR HEALTHY LIVING HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CHANGE THE HEALTH OF THE REGION FOR GENERATIONS...”

Kurt Gross, president of Strategy Ranch

will collaborate with the executive director to reinforce the institute's message about healthy lifestyles out in the community.

“The Institute for Healthy Living has the potential to change the health of the region for generations,” Gross said. “The institute isn't limiting its focus to obesity, it is considering all the aspects that contribute to a healthy lifestyle – from accessibility of health information to public policy and nutrition and fitness. This, along with the other developments in health care in El Paso, like the Medical Center of the Americas, could catapult El Paso as a health leader in the state and region.”

UTEP, the School of Public Health and Texas Tech University Health Science Center have started to collect baseline data from the community to identify available resources and designate priority areas. Information includes green space, walking trails, land development, zoning and food outlets.

The American Heart Association found that \$1 spent on building biking trails and walking paths could save approximately \$3 in medical expenses.

Researchers will also focus on school environments and school policies on nutrition and physical activity.

They plan to promote evidence-based practices that can be implemented throughout the community to increase physical activity

and promote healthy eating.

“It takes a multitude of strategies to address food deserts and nutrition and physical activity from multiple perspectives,” said Hector Balcazar, Ph.D, regional dean of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health. “There's not only one single way of changing food and nutrition habits. You have to change so many things, not only in individuals but in the clinics, and the schools, and the environment, and existing policies.”

Gurjeet S. Shokar, M.D., chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, has seen an increase in obesity in the community over the years, despite national efforts to reduce the epidemic. As a member of the institute's executive committee, Shokar hopes that the institute will help reverse the trend at the local level, starting with children and young people.

“We need to engage the community in healthy nutrition and physical activity, especially children and teens because this is the time when we can influence their behavior, before they become adults,” Shokar said. “Hopefully by increasing awareness of healthy nutrition and physical activity (through the Institute of Healthy Living), we can increase the overall health of the population.”



College of
Health Sciences

Move forward
with the
College of
Health Sciences.

Find your future
in the best
careers of the
21st century.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT CHS.UTEP.EDU



THE INSTITUTE FOR HEALTHY LIVING

The Institute for Healthy Living is a great example of how the ongoing partnership between UTEP and the Paso Del Norte Health Foundation has made a difference in the region.

Since 1997, UTEP and the PdNHF have collaborated on 24 projects to improve the health and lives of people living along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Here are a few of those projects that have made a positive impact in the community over the years.

When Water Works for Health, 1997-1999

UTEP was one of 11 regional organizations that participated in this program, which provided funding for water projects that included septic tanks, water tanks, and connections to water service and wastewater hook-ups in the colonias.

A Smoke Free Paso del Norte, 1999-2013

UTEP's Department of Psychology was awarded a grant in 2006 to participate as an organizing agency in this initiative, which aims to reduce smoking rates in the region. UTEP's role includes providing technical assistance, promoting youth prevention and adult smoking cessation and overseeing the tobacco control networks in El Paso and Juárez.

Center for Border Health Research, 1999-2007

The purpose of the Center for Border Health Research (CBHR) was to ensure a sound, well-defined research agenda and enhance efforts that lead to improvements in the health status of the Paso del Norte region.

Center for Simulation, 2008

UTEP received a grant to develop a state-of-the-art clinical practice simulation laboratory in the Health Sciences and Nursing Building to train nursing and allied health students and to provide opportunities for continuing professional education for licensed health professionals in the Paso del Norte region.

El Paso Psychology Internship Consortium (EPPIC), 2012

UTEP, along with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso and William Beaumont Army Medical Center, formed the El Paso Psychology Internship Consortium (EPPIC) in 2012, which provides internships to doctoral psychology students. EPPIC is funded by the PdNHF and the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING

Accelerates Discovery

By Nadia M. Whitehead • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Not long ago, researchers working to solve complex problems may have had access to only one computer system. But these days, hundreds, or even thousands of computers working together may be a researcher's best bet at success.

Carl Dirk, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, left, and undergraduate researcher Jaime Valencia are using high-performance computing to study what happens to fluorocarbons when they reach the upper atmosphere. Photo by J.R. Hernandez

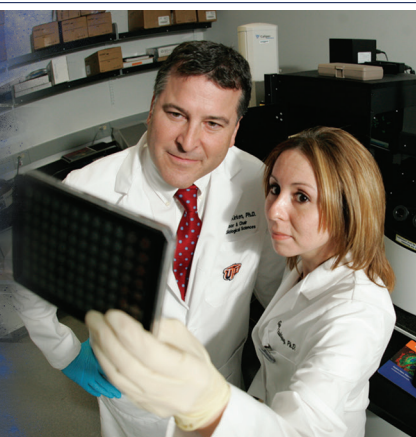


UTEP'S COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Leading the Road to Tier One



For more information visit science.utep.edu



"Some of the problems people are solving these days are so big that they need high computing power," said Pat Teller, Ph.D., director of research computing at The University of Texas at El Paso. "And if you are using 100 processors rather than just one, you might be able to execute your large problems in 1/100 of the time."

Teller is responsible for the Research Cloud @UTEP, which is housed in the new Research and Academic Data Center (RADC). The Research Cloud provides users with up to 31 high-performance servers – almost 400 processors – that are connected via a 10-gigabyte network. Even bigger systems are available to UTEP researchers through The University of Texas Research Cyberinfrastructure (UTRC) initiative and Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE), funded by the National Science Foundation.

Users of UTEP's high-performance computing (HPC) system can be found in nearly every field – from mathematicians and physicists to chemists and mechanical engineers.

"The possibilities are endless with HPC," Teller said. "You can predict and model the weather, easily sift through the huge digital collections of the Library of Congress to find what you're looking for, and model and simulate the strength of materials."

For instance, Ricardo Bernal, Ph.D., associate professor of biochemistry, is using UTEP's HPC system to create three-dimensional reconstructions of a type of protein known as chaperonins.

Using a \$2 million cryo-electron microscope (cryo-EM), Bernal and Sudheer Molugu, the cryo-EM facility manager, freeze the proteins and take thousands of photos of them under the microscope.

"The proteins are frozen into the ice in many random orientations – so that's where high performance computing comes in," Bernal said. It's the computer's job to determine the orientation of every protein relative to every other protein. The computer will then calculate an average of thousands of images to model a chaperonin's 3-D structure.

By identifying the protein's structure and how it works, the team can apply the information to better

understand chaperonins' role in certain diseases.

Without HPC, Bernal and Molugu's research would slow down drastically, or even come to a standstill.

"Having the UTEP high-performance computing resources available to us has been absolutely critical to advance our research," Bernal said. "We are able to speed up computational analysis of the cryo-EM data by at least tenfold when compared to a powerful lab workstation."

Carl Dirk, Ph.D., a UTEP professor of chemistry who studies molecular reactions, only recently discovered HPC at UTEP and is excited about its capabilities.

For most of his life, he has used semi-empirical calculations – approximations which are no longer considered "cutting-edge" math.

"In my opinion, it's a good, predictive method still, but a lot of journals no longer accept semi-empirical results," he said. Research journals now demand *ab initio* methods – calculations that are considered highly accurate – which Dirk was unable to perform.


Until now.

In July he started performing *ab initio* calculations on the high performance computing system. He expected them to take weeks to complete – they were finished in less than 12 hours.

"This new computing system has made me rethink what I can do in terms of computational chemistry. It's changed my mind about what I thought we could do at UTEP," he said. "Up until now I thought this would be very difficult to do – that I could never be competitive with other top researchers, but now I can be."

About 35 researchers use UTEP's HPC system, but Teller hopes that more University faculty, staff and students will soon hop on the bandwagon to learn what HPC can do for them.

"If people engage themselves and adopt this computing, it can certainly accelerate their research, results and even grant funding," she said.

For those interested in using the system, the RADC offers three-to-five-day training courses throughout the year. Learn more at researchcomputing.utep.edu. 

TESTIMONIALS

Name: Carl Dirk, Ph.D.

Position: Professor

Discipline: Chemistry

Along with undergraduate researcher Jaime Valencia, computational chemist Carl Dirk, Ph.D., performs highly accurate *ab initio* computations on UTEP's HPC system to calculate what happens to fluorocarbons – which are emitted from refrigeration and air-conditioning systems – when they are released into the air and exposed to the sun's UV rays in the upper atmosphere, contributing to global warming.

"This new computing system has made me rethink what I can do in terms of computational chemistry. It's changed my mind about what I thought we could do at UTEP. Up until now I thought this would be very difficult to do – that I could never be competitive with other top researchers, but now I can be."

Name: Ricardo Bernal, Ph.D.

Position: Associate professor

Discipline: Biochemistry

Biochemist Ricardo Bernal, Ph.D., is interested in understanding how chaperonins – a type of protein – work, and is using HPC to create three-dimensional reconstructions of them. If Bernal can figure out what the structures look like and the mechanism by which chaperonins help fold other proteins, he can then use the information to learn more about associated diseases.

"Having the UTEP high-performance computing resources available to us has been absolutely critical to advance our research. We are able to speed up computational analysis of the cryo-EM data by at least tenfold when compared to a powerful lab workstation."

Name: Ming-Ying Leung, Ph.D.

Position: Professor and director of bioinformatics

Discipline: Mathematical sciences

Mathematician Ming-Ying Leung, Ph.D., uses HPC to study ribonucleic acid (RNA), a complex molecule found in all life forms. She is particularly interested in unveiling the structural RNA shapes of nodaviruses, a family of viruses that cause disease in fish and insects – one of which can lead to mortality rates as high as 100 percent and can potentially affect agricultural systems. If Leung can decipher the virus' structure, she could potentially learn how to stop the virus from replicating.

"There would be no way for us to solve this problem if there wasn't high-performance computing here at UTEP," she said. "Bioinformatics is an area where you tackle biological problems with a lot of data – we need to have powerful machines to process all the information."

Name: Rajendra Zope, Ph.D.

Position: Assistant professor

Discipline: Physics

Organic solar cells hold a lot of promise, but are only about eight percent efficient. Physicist Rajendra Zope, Ph.D., is out to change that. Zope uses HPC to develop software for researchers to use to identify promising materials candidates. Although he is not involved in the creation or testing of solar cells, he said using a computer to sift through hundreds, maybe even thousands, of materials is vital and must be done to reach the goal of making organic solar cells more efficient.

"National systems require you to write proposals, say exactly how you will use the system and then wait to see if you're accepted – but our system here allows for a lot more exploratory research. If I have a random idea one day, I can just use the system without asking anyone."



GRANTS ROUNDUP

Between May and September 2013, The University of Texas at El Paso received a number of research grants to study a range of topics. The following is a sampling of grant research in each college started during that five-month period.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Stephanie Capshaw, O.T.D., director of the Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program, received a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant to provide 50 scholarships to students in the MOT program. Scholarships are made possible for students from disadvantaged economic backgrounds through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services HRSA's Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students program.

Anthony P. Salvatore, Ph.D., a speech-language pathology professor and chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, and **Timothy N. Tansey**, former associate professor and director of the Master of Rehabilitation Counseling program, received a grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research to hire postdoctoral fellows to further study traumatic brain injuries (TBI). The goal is to increase advanced research capacity in TBIs among civilian and military populations.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Pei-Ling Hsu, Ph.D., assistant professor of teacher education, received a grant from the National Science Foundation for a project titled "Transforming Students' Partnerships with Scientists through Cogenerative Dialogues." High school students, especially the underserved Hispanic population, and scientists will become partners to stimulate the students' interest in science and research and create new avenues through which to recruit students into the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields. The goal also is to learn how to build interdisciplinary collaborations and networks among secondary and postsecondary instructors.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

John Walton, Ph.D., professor of civil engineering, received a grant from the SFWQ Corp. to help remove brine, or salt solution, from the naturally flowing springs that enter the Brazos River in central Texas. The brine degrades the water quality of the Brazos and leads to the necessity of desalination at downstream locations. Goals include removing the salt at its upstream source, which is more economical than downstream treatment, and producing marketable salts and potable water. The team will build one or more pilot plants to demonstrate technical feasibility and the economic cost-benefit of reducing the brine discharge.

David Zubia, Ph.D., associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, received a grant from the University of California, Berkeley, to perform collaborative research on low-energy electronics between UTEP and UC Berkeley's Center for Energy Efficient Electronics Science. The research focuses on nanoscale crystal growth to create an efficient phototransistor. Other activities include jointly teaching courses and outreach for undergraduates.

Principal investigator **Yirong Lin**, Ph.D., assistant professor of mechanical engineering, and co-principal investigators **Ahsan Choudhuri**, Ph.D., professor and chair of mechanical engineering, and **Ryan Wicker**, Ph.D., director of the UTEP's W.M. Keck Center for 3-D Innovation, received funding from the U.S. Department of Energy to develop technologies for "smart parts" with embedded sensors for high-efficiency and emission-free fossil energy systems using additive manufacturing, or 3-D printing.

Cesar Carrasco, Ph.D., associate professor of civil engineering, received a grant from Johns Hopkins University to help with NASA's Solar Probe Plus project, whose mission is to "touch the sun" by 2024. The probe will face high levels of dust impact on its journey – which Carrasco will simulate. The engineer will help in the design of the solar probe by modeling the spacecraft's

trajectory and determining how many impacts will be made at which size, angle and speed. After Carrasco completes the simulations, he will give the information to the design team at Johns Hopkins to determine whether the vehicle needs more shielding.

Homer Nazeran, Ph.D., professor of electrical and computer engineering, received a grant from The University of Texas at San Antonio in addition to support from Loya Innovation Funds to create a biomedical instrument that monitors sleep and detects sleep apnea using cutting edge biosensing, biomedical signal processing techniques and smart mobile technologies. The instrument will enable a low-cost alternative to current labor-intensive and costly polysomnography and diagnostic approaches, and will facilitate home monitoring of sleep disorders.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Timothy Collins, Ph.D., associate professor of geography in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and co-principal investigator **Sara Grineski**, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology, received a grant from the National Science Foundation to supplement a research experience for one undergraduate student in an ongoing project titled "Advancing Environmental Equity Research: Vulnerability to Air Pollution and Flood Risks in Houston and Miami." The student will be supported for Year 3 of the project and will form part of an interdisciplinary research team that also includes investigators from the University of South Florida. This project aims to address several limitations associated with current environmental justice research and practice, and advance knowledge of social and spatial influences on residential exposure to environmental hazards.

Theodore Cooper, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, received a grant from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation to broaden previously developed programs for light and intermittent smokers by comparing a group modality with an already-established individually based program. Since smokers who are more motivated to quit

have a heightened likelihood of quitting, the current proposal focuses on smokers who are motivated to quit. Subjects will be recruited from throughout the El Paso community. The primary goals of this program are: 1) to assess the feasibility of the group program with light and intermittent smokers, 2) to assess program effectiveness in smokers highly motivated to quit smoking, and 3) to assess the effectiveness of the StopLite individual and group interventions in adult light and intermittent smokers.

Arvind Singhal, Ph.D., professor of communication, received a grant from the Population Media Center to investigate the effects of PMC's highly successful "East Los High" web series and its multiple transmedia (website, mobile apps) extensions. Singhal will assist in the research planning, research design, and implementation tasks for the following aspects of the research: Viewer Exit Survey to assess audience involvement and health-related outcomes; Online Panel Experiment to assess the effects of the unique characteristics of the series as an entertainment-education health intervention; and Audience Feedback on Social Media to assess viewer response through comments, inquiries and interpersonal discussions.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Igor C. Almeida, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences, received a five-year grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences through Northwestern University to study the proteins of *Trypanosoma brucei*, a parasite that causes the human African trypanosomiasis (HAT), or sleeping sickness, and nagana in animals. HAT – a disease that causes fever, sleep cycle disruption and potentially even death in thousands of people in Africa every year – is transmitted by the tsetse fly, a large biting fly that feeds on blood. The hope is to identify potential targets to develop drug therapy against the parasite.

Tunna Baruah, Ph.D., associate professor of physics, received funding from the U.S. Department of Energy to support student travel expenses to a 2013 summer workshop in Italy. The workshop revolved around the theory and simulation of nanospintronics. Several energy scientists from the U.S. lectured and provided hands-on tutorials to describe the properties of such nano-magnets.

Steven Harder, D.Sc., research professor of geological sciences, received a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation to study the suturing of Appalachian terranes and Mesozoic rift history. In addition, to help

engage students and early-career scientists, the grant will help fund two training workshops to teach basic but effective analysis methods with these new seismic reflection and refraction data.

Craig Tweedie, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences, received funding from UMIAQ, a subsidiary of one of Alaska's largest companies – Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation. The grant will help create a coastal impact assistance program supporting Arctic science, with a special focus on the research hubs of Barrow, Atkasuk and Ivotuk on the north slope of Alaska. Known as the Barrow Area Information Database (BAID) Decision Support Tools Development Project, goals include compiling the most accurate, comprehensive picture to date of wetlands and erosion features of the coastal areas, and placing the tools for protection, conservation and restoration of coastal areas into the hands of local residents.

Jianying Zhang, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences, in collaboration with researchers at Loma Linda University, received a grant from the National Institutes of Health to identify and validate new biomarkers of prostate cancer that can be tailored to African-American men to enhance diagnosis, monitor disease progression and help guide personalized therapies. Zhang hopes the work will translate into a reduction of prostate cancer mortalities. African-American men are more likely to develop prostate cancer than Caucasian men, and are nearly two-and-a-half times as likely to die from the disease.

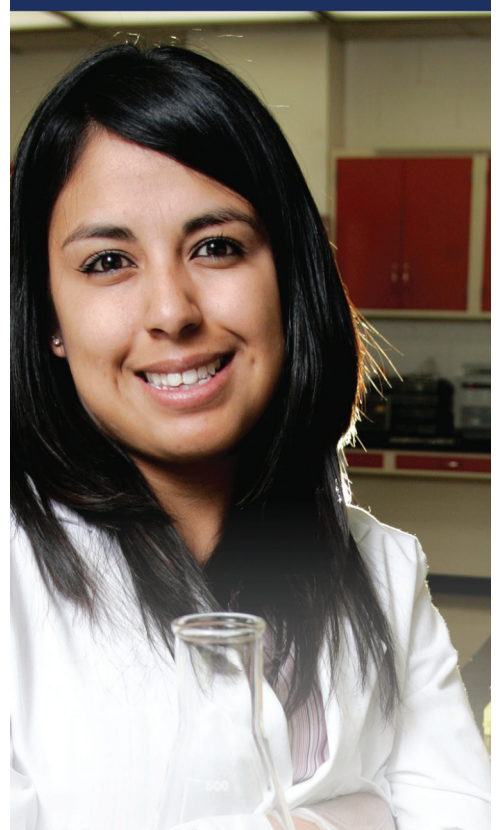
Rajendra Zope, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, and **Tunna Baruah**, Ph.D., associate professor of physics, received a supplemental grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to study metal-organic frameworks using density functionals that can describe van der Waal interactions.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Tom Fullerton, Ph.D., professor of economics and finance, will conduct research for the Border Region Modeling Project, which received a grant from Hunt Communities to investigate metropolitan business cycle fluctuations. He will be assisted by Adam Walke, a research associate in the Department of Economics and Finance.

Fullerton also received an applied econometric research award from Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León for an empirical analysis of reverse dollarization in the form of peso payment acceptance by El Paso micro-enterprises. ▢

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO GRADUATE SCHOOL



Did you know
that UTEP offers
75 master's and 20
doctoral programs?

TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP

TOWARD TIER ONE
graduate.utep.edu



**Mike Loya Academic
Services Bldg. Room 223**
500 West University Ave.
El Paso, Texas 79968-0587
Tel: (915) 747-5491

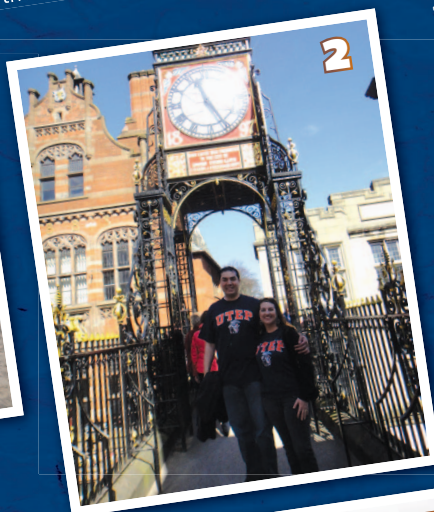
MINERS AROUND THE WORLD



The University of Texas at El Paso asked Facebook fans to submit photos of themselves wearing UTEP gear during their travels around the world. Here are some of the photos submitted:



1



2

1) David Castro's (B.S.N. 2010) stay on a secluded beach in Bali, Indonesia, was a 'Picks Up.' He is currently enrolled in the UTEP MBA program.

2) Adrian Gonzalez (B.S.C.E. 2007) and Jessica Gonzalez (B.B.A. in management 2008) wear their Miner Pride under the Eastgate Clock in Chester, England, where they've lived for two years.



3

3) Alfredo Tovar (B.B.A. in marketing 1974) used his Paydirt Pete Miner strength to hold up the Alaskan Pipeline near Fairbanks, Alaska.



4

4) Anna Montes (B.I.S. 2009; M.Ed. in special education 2012) honeymooned with her new husband in Granada, Spain. Here she is pictured in front of the Alhambra.



5

5) Edward Bradford (B.B.A. in finance 1993) was all smiles in Kraków, Poland. Here he is photographed in front of the Wawel Cathedral.



6

6) This group of UTEP students jumped for joy in Rome, where they spent 16 days for the Maymester course "Layers of Rome." The course surveys the history of Rome from its founding to its fall. 📸

To submit a Miners Around the World photo for possible inclusion in UTEP Magazine, send the photo and caption information to univcomm@utep.edu.

Elite 8

WIN 2013 UT REGENTS' OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

By Daniel Perez

The University of Texas System Board of Regents presented eight UTEP faculty members with the Outstanding Teaching Award for excellence in the classroom during an Aug. 21 ceremony at UT Austin.

The 2013 recipients from The University of Texas at El Paso are Charles R. Boehmer, Ph.D., associate professor of political science; Ann Gabbert, Ph.D., associate director for student support and lecturer in the Entering Student Program; Gaspare M. Genna, Ph.D., associate professor of political science; John Hadjimarcou, Ph.D., professor and chair of marketing and management; Dave McIntyre, senior lecturer of art; James M. Salvador, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry; Cigdem V. Sirin, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science; and Ron Wagler, Ph.D., assistant professor of teacher education.

The UTEP educators were among 63 faculty from throughout the system's nine academic institutions to be recognized with the Regents' highest accolade, which is among the most competitive nationwide and one of the nation's largest monetary teaching recognition programs in higher education. Faculty members are judged on such classroom criteria as curricula quality, student performance, subject expertise and innovative course development. Each winner received a medallion, commemorative



CHARLES R. BOEHMER, PH.D.



ANN GABBERT, PH.D.



GASPARE M. GENNA, PH.D.



JOHN HADJIMARCOU, PH.D.



DAVE MCINTYRE



JAMES M. SALVADOR, PH.D.



CIGDEM V. SIRIN, PH.D.



RON WAGLER, PH.D.

certificate and an unrestricted \$25,000 check.

The recipients were grateful for the professional acknowledgement. Many said they were humbled by the recognition and shared the credit with their University colleagues and talented graduate and undergraduate students who have helped them through their years of service.

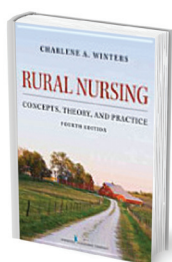
"We happily celebrate the selection of these eight UTEP faculty members who join the proud ranks of previous Outstanding Teaching Award winners on our campus," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "This recognition by the UT System Board of Regents is a testament to the remarkable work that is being done by our dedicated faculty members, who so positively impact the lives of our students

and the surrounding region. We thank the Regents for creating this prestigious award that honors teaching excellence, and we congratulate this year's winners on this well-deserved recognition of their success."

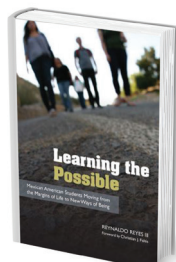
The Regents created the awards in November 2008 to recognize extraordinary performance in the lab, the classroom or online, and innovation in undergraduate instruction. They made a similar presentation to 39 recipients from the system's six health institutions in July. The Board has given \$12 million since the first award presentation in 2009.

The eight 2013 recipients bring the total number of the University's Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award winners to 43. ➤

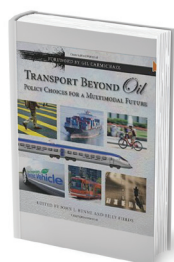
FACULTY MUST-READS



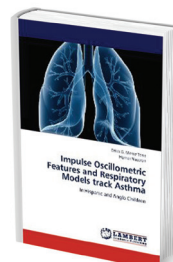
Rural Nursing: Concepts, Theory and Practice, contributors Eva Moya, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work; Guillermina Solis, Ph.D., clinical assistant professor of nursing; Mark Lusk, Ed.D., professor of social work; et al (Springer Publishing Co., 2013)



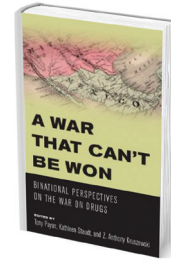
Learning the Possible: Mexican American Students Moving from the Margins of Life to New Ways of Being, by Reynaldo Reyes III, Ph.D., associate professor of teacher education (University of Arizona Press, 2013)



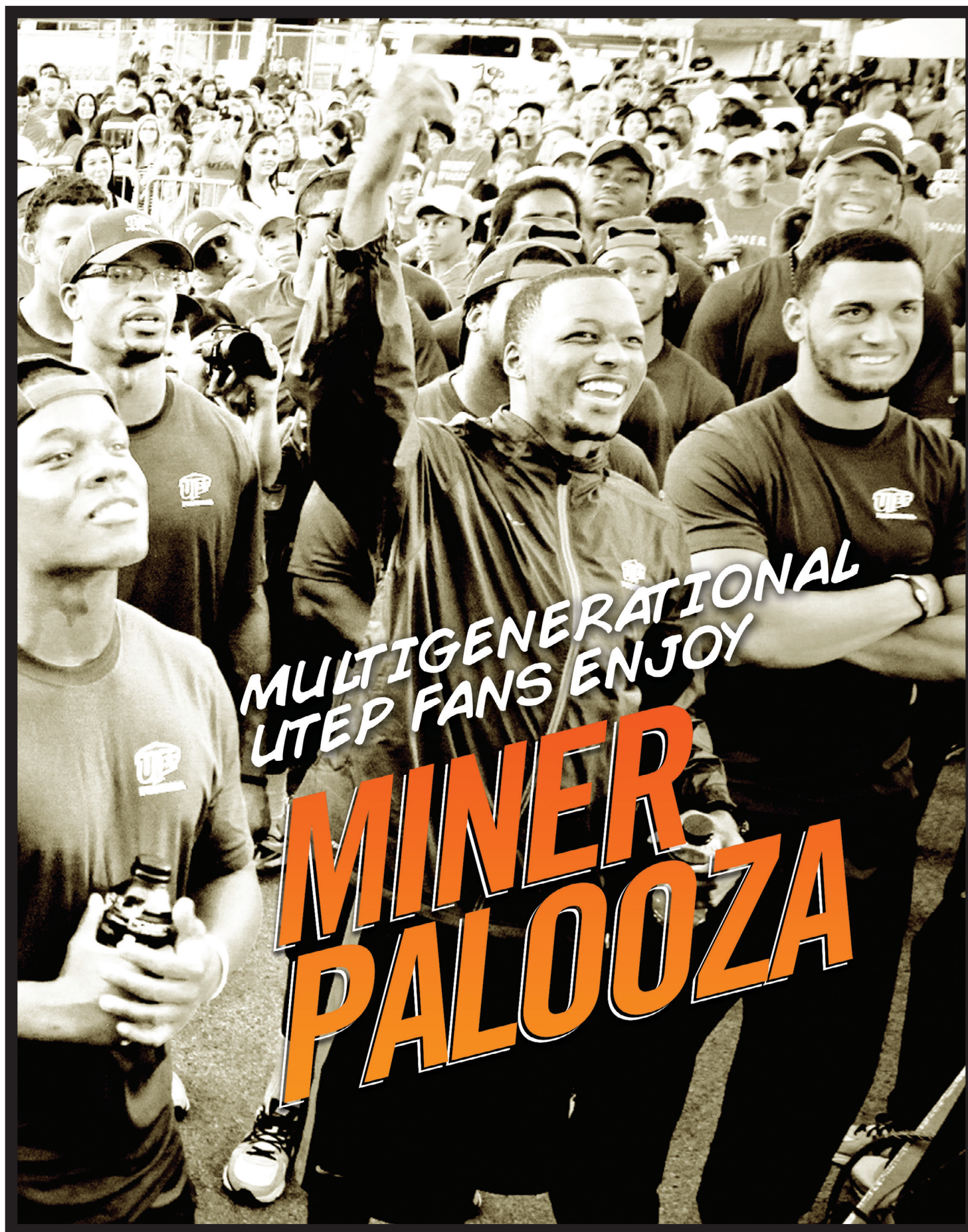
Transport Beyond Oil: Policy Choices for a Multimodal Future, contributor Bradley Lane, Ph.D., assistant professor of public administration (Island Press, 2013)



Impulse Oscillometric Features and Respiratory Models Track Asthma in Hispanic and Anglo Children, by Homer Nazeran, Ph.D., associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, et al (Lambert Academic Publishing, 2013)



A War that Can't Be Won: Binational Perspectives on the War on Drugs, edited by Z. Anthony Kruszewski, Ph.D., professor of political science, Kathleen Staudt, Ph.D., professor of political science, and Tony Payan, Ph.D., associate professor of political science (University of Arizona Press, 2013)



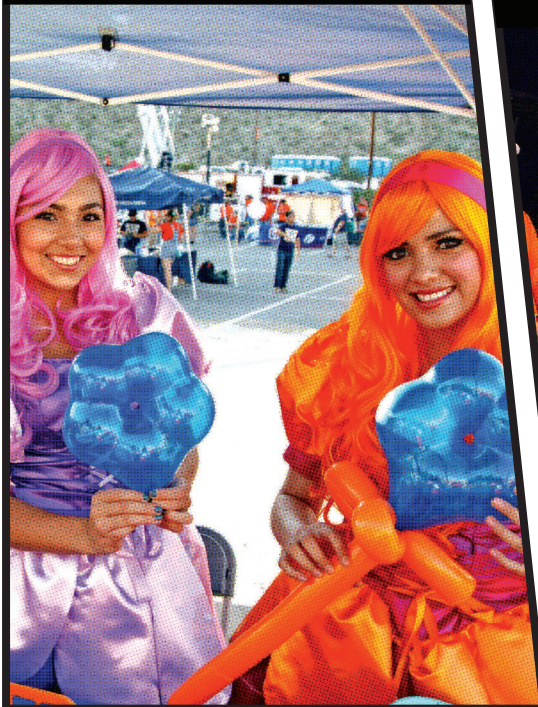
THOUSANDS OF MINER FAITHFUL CELEBRATED THE START OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR AND FOOTBALL SEASON...



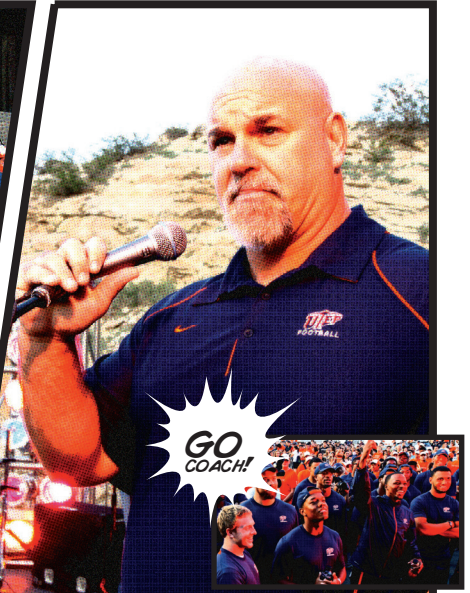
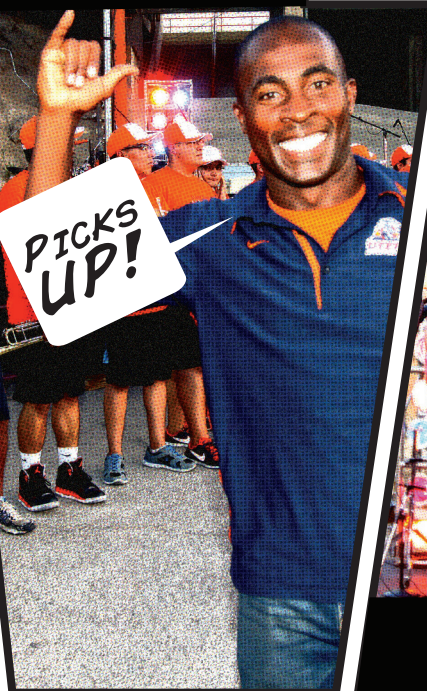
...AT THE 23RD ANNUAL MINERPALOOZA PEP RALLY SEPT. 6 IN THE PARKING LOT SHARED BY UTEP'S SUN BOWL STADIUM AND KIDD FIELD.



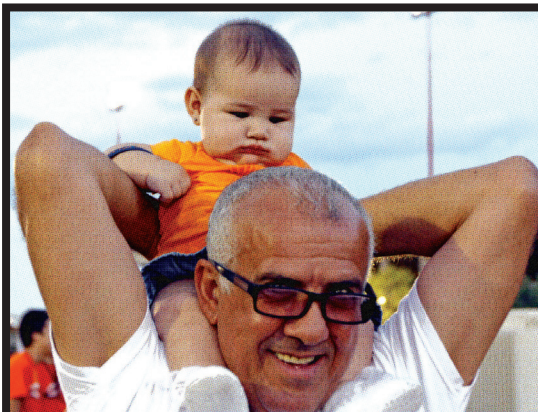
THE EVENT, WHICH FEATURED DIVERSE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDING BANDS, DJs AND FIRE DANCERS....



...WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE PARTICIPATION OF UTEP'S MARCHING MINER REGIMENT...



...AND THE FOOTBALL TEAM, LED BY NEW HEAD COACH SEAN KUGLER.



THE MULTIGENERATIONAL CROWD ENJOYED THE CARNIVAL-LIKE ATMOSPHERE...

...THAT INCLUDED FOOD VENDORS AND GAME BOOTHS RUN BY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS. 🍷



Photos by Laura Trejo

Lucky #7

NATIONAL PUBLICATION'S #7 RANKING RECOGNIZES 'ACCESS, EXCELLENCE' MODEL

By Daniel Perez



Growing up in a rural Texas community, Mayra Sandoval was surrounded by peers who believed they had limited options that did not include college. Sandoval, a bright child from a supportive family, never bought into that. Her family knew higher education would be her catalyst for change.

A native of Fort Hancock, Texas, a small community 54 miles southeast of El Paso, Sandoval said her parents, a farmer and a homemaker, encouraged her to study hard and create a better future for herself. The high school valedictorian had academic options upon graduation and chose to attend The University of Texas at El Paso.

Now a senior psychology major, Sandoval said she has never regretted her decision. Her experiences, which include international travel, membership and leadership positions in student organizations, and jobs in a research lab and campus office, have given her a well-rounded academic foundation to turn her dreams into reality.

She was proud to be among the 30-plus orange-and-blue-clad, sign-waving UTEP students who helped University President Diana Natalicio kick off the fall 2013 semester at an Aug. 26 campus event. President Natalicio announced that *Washington Monthly* magazine ranked UTEP #7 in the nation among all universities based on research, social mobility and service to the community and beyond. The University had jumped five spaces from #12 in 2012, landing between #6 Stanford and #8 Harvard.

"The challenge is to live up to that position," said Sandoval, a first-generation college student who has funded her education through grants. She added that the recognition has brought additional pride throughout the campus and a sense of motivation to improve.

"The good news is that there's still room to move up," she said.

President Natalicio said she was proud and excited that the nation was learning about UTEP's unique higher education model that focuses on quality and affordability. She said UTEP's "access and excellence" method will be the answer to some of the challenges faced by universities in the 21st century.

For the second year in a row, the magazine rated UTEP #1 in social mobility, which is described as recruiting and graduating students from families with modest means. The research component of the ranking includes annual expenditures (nearly \$80 million at UTEP) and the growing number of undergraduates who go on to earn doctoral degrees. The service component takes into consideration volunteer hours or participation in service organizations such as ROTC and events such as Project MOVE (Miner Opportunities for Volunteer Experiences).

"UTEP has chosen to follow a different path and so has *Washington Monthly*," President

Natalicio said. "What *Washington Monthly* is more interested in is the impact of a university on its region and on this nation. By that set of criteria, UTEP zooms to the top because we're getting it right."

In its introduction to the rankings, the magazine's editors praised UTEP for enrolling – and graduating – a large number of low-income students. More than half of UTEP's almost 23,000 students – 12,116 – received a Pell Grant during the 2012-13 academic year, and 75 percent received some form of financial aid.

"Our rankings aim to identify institutions that are acting on behalf of the true public interest," the editors wrote. They later added that UTEP enrolls "large numbers of low-income students and graduates more of them than the economic and academic profiles of their students would predict, while charging the kind of affordable tuition that is increasingly rare."

The ranking generated a sense of pride and energy in Mario Sosa, a junior biochemistry major, who considers himself a beneficiary of UTEP's access and excellence model. The Coronado High School graduate decided to go to college immediately after high school because his father's unemployment made him take a more serious look at his education and where to attain it.

Sosa's friends who attended UTEP shared stories of their academic and research opportunities, while others who attended outside universities commiserated about the lack of the same.

"Enrolling at UTEP was not a hard decision," the El Paso native and first-generation college student said. "I saw my friends who were bettering themselves. I realized that this University gives access to everyone."

He has paid for college through grants and scholarships and has held several part-time jobs while being active with student organizations including the Student Government Association. He has interned with an orthopaedist and continues his research into how food nutrients alter a body's chemical pathways.

"I feel as if I was part of the effort that lifted UTEP to the #7 ranking. This is a great accomplishment that will impact future generations," said Sosa, who participated in the ranking announcement event and plans to attend medical school.

UTEP was the highest-rated institution within The University of Texas System on the *Washington Monthly* list. UT Austin was ranked 18. The top school in the state was Texas A&M, which fell one spot from 2012 to #3. The University of California, San Diego, earned the overall top spot for the second year in a row.

As for Sandoval, she expects to graduate in December 2014 and plans to enroll in medical or graduate school, where she will continue her research into mental health disparities. At this point, she thinks her options are limitless. ▢



Mayra Sandoval



Mario Sosa



"What Washington Monthly is more interested in is the impact of a university on its region and on this nation. By that set of criteria, UTEP zooms to the top because we're getting it right."

Diana Natalicio
UTEP President

Team Texas

By Nadia M. Whitehead

DEBUTS SOLAR HOME BUILT FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION



This panoramic view shows Team Texas' solar decathlon home, built by students from The University of Texas at El Paso and El Paso Community College.
Photo by Jason Flakes / U.S. Department of Energy

The U.S. Department of Energy's 2013 Solar Decathlon kicked off Thursday, Oct. 3, and took place over the course of a week in Irvine, Calif. The challenge in this competition was for a select few teams to design, build and operate a solar-powered home that was cost-effective, energy-efficient and attractive.

After two years of hard work, everything finally culminated several thousand miles away from home for Team Texas — the only collegiate team selected from the state to participate in the international competition. The team included students from The University of Texas at El Paso and El Paso Community College.

"We've been building what's called a net-zero house where we're able to run the entire house on its own using absolutely no outside

energy other than the sun," said Jacob Nevarez, a senior engineering student and lead mechanical engineer on the team.

For several months leading up to the competition, the 800-square-foot home was built in a lot near the El Paso International Airport. In mid-September, it was loaded onto several semi-trucks and began its more than 700-mile trek across the Southwest.

"That was the other challenging portion of this house," said Nicolas Mercado, a graduate student in construction management. "This actually has to be delivered [to California], so we have to make it to where we can disassemble it and assemble it there. This isn't going to come down wall for wall, we're going to cut it into four big pieces."

By the end of September, all four sections of the home arrived safely at the building site, and UTEP students raced to put the house back together in time for the competition's start date.

Nineteen other collegiate teams, who also built and transported their homes to the site, faced off in 10 contests: architecture, marketing appeal, engineering, communications, affordability, comfort, hot water, appliances, home entertainment and energy balance.

Highlights of Team Texas' home included a completely recyclable corrugated metal roof, solar window shades, sun-tracking skylights, LED lights, an ADA accessible ramp and bifacial solar panels.

In addition, the home was ductless and relied on an innovative heating and cooling system built into the floor and ceiling.



Students designed the home to represent El Paso, and the exterior of the house reflects both a southwestern style and the area's Hispanic influence.



"We were able to use the small surface area on this house — just on this roof — to generate the entire energy needed for this home," said Nevarez, who added that the UTEP-EPCC home is valued at \$250,000.

Students designed the home to represent El Paso, and the exterior of the house reflects both a southwestern style and the area's Hispanic influence. In fact, 85 percent of the materials for the exterior came from the Paso del Norte region.

"We really want the design to match our local arid area," Mercado said. "The mission of the team lies in developing a house that takes advantage of the abundance of sunshine in these dry lands using sustainability, and to communicate to and educate residents that sustainability can become a reality and a pleasure."

The competition ended Oct. 13 with Team Texas in 18th place. Afterward, the home was transported back to the Paso del Norte region. UTEP administrators are currently deciding where it will permanently reside.

"The successful completion of this two-year-long project is the result of more than 100 students from the colleges of Engineering, Business Administration, Liberal Arts and EPCC," said Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., dean of the College of Engineering. "I am very proud of Team Texas and the effort all put in to support our students. This has been a tremendous learning opportunity for them." 📌

(Heritage + Tradition)
x Transformation
A bright future

**COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING**
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

The College of Engineering
for the 21st Century

ENGINEERING.UTEP.EDU



Ed Archuleta, former CEO of El Paso Water Utilities who's credited with bringing the world's largest inland desalination plant to the region, has become Director of Water Initiatives at UTEP. Photo by J.R. Hernandez

New Hire to Boost Water Resource Management

By Nadia M. Whitehead

HE'S BEEN APPOINTED TO TOP-NOTCH POSITIONS BY TWO PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, HE IS CREDITED WITH BRINGING THE WORLD'S LARGEST INLAND DESALINATION PLANT TO THE REGION – AND NOW, HE'S WORKING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO.

"We are very proud to announce today that Ed Archuleta will be joining UTEP as the director of water initiatives," President Diana Natalicio told a crowd in August. "Everyone here I think knows that Archuleta is considered one of the country's top experts in strategic management of water policy and water resources."

Archuleta's new part-time position will revolve around two main goals: increasing the visibility and amount of research in water resource management at UTEP, and creating a master's and doctoral degree program at the University in the same field.

"What better place to attract students interested in this field than an arid area like El Paso?" said Archuleta, who will help develop curriculum for the new programs. "This region is a living lab – we have water from the river, groundwater, reclaimed water, brackish water and a desalination plant. We cover the whole spectrum of water resource

management, so this will be a great place to study and have research seminars to promote it."

Prior to joining the University, Archuleta served as the CEO of El Paso Water Utilities for 24 years, and is credited with positioning El Paso as a leading city for innovative strategies to ensure water supply. He holds extensive experience and has an international reputation as an expert in community water management.

In 2006, President George W. Bush appointed Archuleta as a member of the National Infrastructure Advisory Council, and in 2010 President Barack Obama appointed him as the U.S. chairman of the Pecos-River Compact Commission.

Archuleta holds a B.S. and M.S. in civil engineering from New Mexico State University, and a Master of Management degree from the University of New Mexico. 📸

New Graduate Programs Fuse Medicine & Engineering

By Nadia M. Whitehead

This past fall, The University of Texas at El Paso began offering a new graduate education option for students: biomedical engineering.

"This is what I consider a cutting-edge degree," said Julio Rincon, a doctoral student at UTEP who recently switched to the new Ph.D. program. "There are a lot of new opportunities in this field, whereas other fields are already widely exploited and it's harder to innovate in them."

Rincon is one of several students who were awaiting approval of the new master's and doctoral degrees, which occurred on July 25 when the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board gave UTEP the go-ahead.

"This is great news for UTEP and reflects the quality of our faculty, students and facilities," said Thomas Boland, Ph.D., director of the new degree programs. "I'm especially delighted for our students who will be awarded degrees that are highly sought by startup companies and Fortune 500 employers in the

biomedical technology, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical industries."

The curriculum, which Boland believes will attract students, will have a strong focus on biomedical engineering for low-resource settings and the developing world.

"Our biomedical engineering faculty and students are developing technology to diagnose and treat those afflicted with illness and bodily harm, and our strong affiliations with such institutions as the Medical Center of the Americas Foundation will ensure that the technology will be commercialized for use and that we are having a positive impact on the lives of patients," said Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., dean of the College of Engineering.

The biomedical and biotechnology industry is one of the fastest-growing in the United States.

Boland anticipates that 25 Ph.D. students and 64 master's students will be enrolled in the program within five years. With the new degrees, UTEP offers a total of 75 master's degrees and 20 doctoral degrees. 📸



Graduate student Joshua Bowen tests the durability of a prosthetic foot in the LIMBS International laboratory. The focus of the lab and nonprofit organization is to create highly functional, ultra-low-cost prosthetics for the "poorest of the poor." Photo by J.R. Hernandez



New Fall Record

FIRST-TIME STUDENTS PUSH ENROLLMENT PAST 23,000

By Daniel Perez

An increase in first-time students helped The University of Texas at El Paso surpass the 23,000 student mark for the first time in its 99-year history and break its fall enrollment record for the 15th straight year.

The 23,003 students eclipsed the record – 22,749 – set in 2012. UTEP officials said the growth in student enrollment is a result of years of outreach within neighboring school districts and positive national publicity during the past few years that trumpet the University's successful and innovative programs.

One of the more recent accolades was the #7 ranking in *Washington Monthly* magazine announced this fall. The publication based its rating on research, social mobility and community service.

University data shows significant growth among first-time freshmen (3,112 compared to 2,889, a 7.7 percent increase from last

year), and transfer students (1,705 this year, a 4.2 percent increase from 1,637 in 2012). There also was a two percent bump in UTEP's undergraduate retention rate from 2012.

On top of its many academic achievements, the U.S. Department of Education has ranked UTEP as the university with the lowest out-of-pocket cost of all U.S. research institutions of higher education classified by the Carnegie Foundation.

"While many universities are experiencing declining enrollments, UTEP's enrollment growth demonstrates that we are fulfilling our commitment to provide students with affordable access to excellent academic programs," University President Diana Natalicio said. "UTEP's #7 overall ranking by *Washington Monthly* magazine and our #1 ranking as best in the nation for fostering student social mobility validate UTEP as an outstanding choice." 📄

On top of its many academic achievements, the U.S. Department of Education has ranked UTEP as the university with the lowest out-of-pocket cost of all U.S. research institutions of higher education classified by the Carnegie Foundation.

UTEP NEWS

2013 UTEP Homecoming

By Lisa Y. Garibay • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

Families and friends joined UTEP students, faculty, staff and alumni for Homecoming 2013 events celebrating close to 100 years of achievement and history. Under the theme of “Minerland” – a nod to Disney’s beloved theme park – the campus was treated to activities throughout the week incorporating Disney films and characters in demonstrations of Miner pride. Leaders in advertising, engineering, law and health care were feted as Distinguished Alumni. Hundreds turned out for the Homecoming parade that used ongoing construction in the center of campus as an opportunity to let festivities flow off campus onto city streets. Capping off the week was the Homecoming football game pitting UTEP against Louisiana Tech. ▣



1963

SUN BOWL STADIUM

2013

50
-YEARS-

By Lisa Y. Garibay

September 21, 2013, wasn't just the date of another UTEP home game. It marked the 50th anniversary of one of the region's most storied local landmarks: Sun Bowl Stadium.

Built in 1963 with an initial capacity of approximately 30,000, the Sun Bowl has become a treasured venue where generations of El Pasoans have experienced jubilant football moments as well as unforgettable live concerts.

Technical Supervisor Fernie Mabini – who began working for UTEP's special events department in 1974 – has earned the unofficial title of the venue's historian since his tenure spans close to four decades. The first concert he worked at Sun Bowl Stadium was for "Down in the West Texas town of El Paso" singer-songwriter Marty Robbins in 1976, when the city declared July 2 "Marty Robbins Day."

"It was in the summertime just before the football season and during the city's monsoon season," Mabini recalled. "The sky threatened to rain, but held off. The Haskins Center hadn't opened yet, so they had to have the concert in the Sun Bowl."

UTEP Commencement ceremonies were held in the Sun Bowl before the El Paso Civic Center (later renamed the Abraham Chavez Theatre) was built downtown. Commencements were relocated to the Civic Center for a short time while the Haskins Center was being built.

The Sun Bowl originally had a natural grass field, which required a much greater crown – the hump in the center of the field – to allow for drainage. Artificial turf was put down in 1999, reducing the crown from 42 inches to eight.

"Before we went to artificial turf, you could actually lie down on one side of the field and not see another person lying down on the other side of the field," explained Director of Special Facilities Management Mike Spence, who has been employed by special events for 30 years, becoming director 20 years ago.



Memorable football moments in more recent memory include UTEP's battle against The University of Texas at Austin in 2008. The game had sold out weeks in advance in anticipation of the first match-up between the schools since 1933.

One of the first football highlights the Sun Bowl saw was on its very first game day. On Sept. 21, 1963, Larry Durham ran 54 yards for a touchdown on the game's first play from scrimmage, helping the Miners defeat North Texas State 34-7. Three years later, the Miners' 68-point win over Texas-Arlington marked the most points ever scored in the Sun Bowl.

The next November, the Miners hosted and faced the nationally ranked #6 team of Wyoming. The game featured the first sellout in school history, with 35,023 fans packing a stadium that seated just 30,000.

In 1988, UTEP beat Air Force to earn its 10th win of the season and a trip to the Independence Bowl. That year, the team was led by Academic All-American quarterback Pat Hegarty and former Dallas Cowboy Tony Tolbert. Close to a decade later, the Miners upset 25th ranked BYU, marking the first time in 138 games that BYU was held to a shutout. Ecstatic Miner fans made ESPN highlights by tearing down the south goal posts, carrying them up through the stands, and depositing them into the base of the mountain.

Memorable football moments in more recent memory include UTEP's battle against UT Austin in 2008. The game had sold out weeks in advance in anticipation of the first match-up between the schools since 1933, and a record crowd of 53,415 packed the Sun Bowl to watch.

Fans have come out in droves for non-UTEP football events too, especially when the Dallas Cowboys are involved. The legendary Texas team played three scrimmages at the Sun Bowl during the summers of 1996 (drawing a sellout crowd of 51,118), 1997, and 1998.

In 1998, the Sun Bowl's sell-out match between Oscar de la Hoya and Patrick Charpentier made history as one of the largest outdoor boxing matches ever held in the United States.

"We had to build a sub-floor to make the ring level, then put a stage on top," Mabini recalled. "So many people showed up for that thing, but we had projection TVs and everybody got to see the fight even though it only lasted three rounds."

The stadium's foray into a different type of entertainment resulted in another huge turnout by El Pasoans. According to Spence, the organizers and staff had no idea what to expect in terms of attendance, so they were pleasantly surprised, if not overwhelmed, when the Sun Bowl's first-ever monster truck show drew a four-hour line of close to 25,000 people that extended through the parking lots and down Mesa Street.

And then there are the concerts. Big names who have visited the Sun Bowl have attracted broader crowds not only from El Paso but the surrounding region as well, with fans traveling hundreds of miles to see their musical icons. The Rolling Stones have played the Sun Bowl twice; other performers throughout its history include Elton John, Pink Floyd, *NSYNC, Dave Matthews Band, Ricky Martin and U2.

The Sun Bowl helped UTEP celebrate its 100th commencement in 1998 when special guest George W. Bush, then governor of Texas, spoke to graduates, their families and friends. The 1997 winter and 1998 spring ceremonies were combined into one for this milestone.

"It made a long graduation even longer because everyone started taking pictures with [Bush]," Mabini said. "But he was very gracious and hammed it up for every single picture. I think that was a four-hour graduation."

Over its five decades, Sun Bowl Stadium has not changed much. In 1977, about 20 rows were added on the east side of the stadium, and in 1982



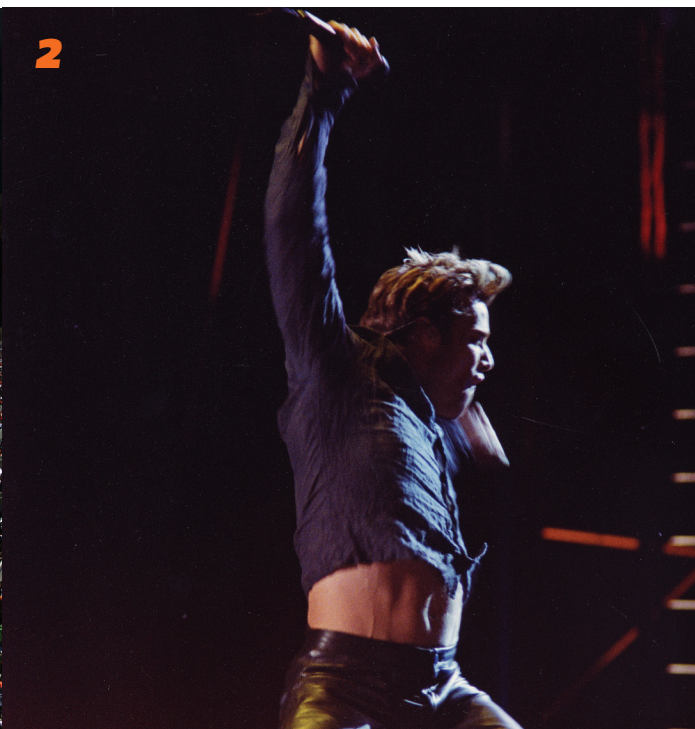
more capacity was added to bring the Sun Bowl to its current seating of 52,000. While UTEP was still Texas Western College, the end zone was made up of grass with the school's name spelled out in hedges; this was covered over with concrete with the wording painted. More seats were also added in the south area of the stadium. For all games prior to 2001, a hired truck with a giant video board would be parked in the north end of the Sun Bowl. The video board on the south end of the stadium was installed in 2001. Scoring has also changed from older relay-type technology to electronic technology, which also occurred in 2001.

There are some changes that the long-time keepers of the stadium recall wistfully.

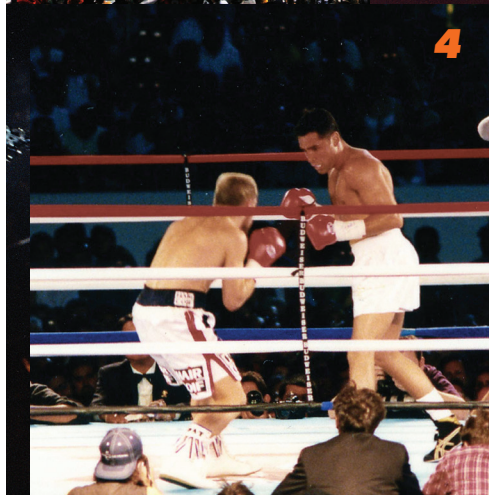
"I kind of miss when they had the grass field and our mascot Paydirt Pete would walk around the field during the games with a live burro," said Mabini. Overall, both staff and the city have stood behind the steady evolution of the stadium, and are looking forward to what may come over the next five decades.

"It's an icon for the city," said Executive Director of Special Events Jorge Vasquez. "It takes a lot to upkeep a facility like this. We have a huge responsibility on our hands and we do not take that very lightly. We know what we have in our hands is a jewel and we are the proud keepers of it." □

2



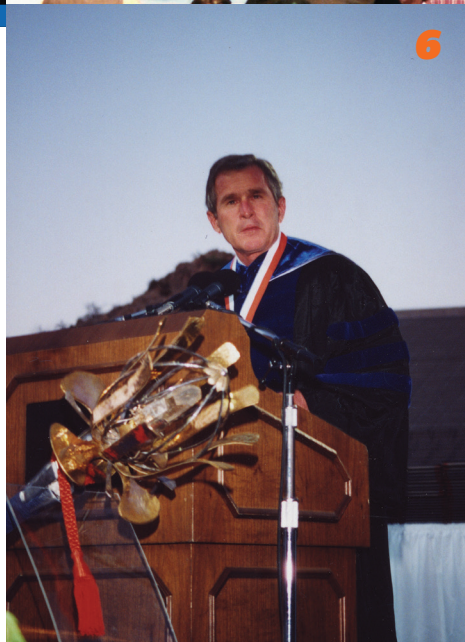
4



5



6



1. UTEP supporters packed the stadium during a Miner football game.
2. Ricky Martin danced the night away to a sold out Sun Bowl crowd in 2000.
3. The Rolling Stones rocked generations of fans when they performed at the stadium in 2006.
4. Oscar de la Hoya beat Patrick Charpentier in three rounds during one of the largest outdoor boxing matches in U.S. history at the Sun Bowl in 1998.
5. Graduates prepared to receive their diplomas at the University's 100th Commencement, which was held in the Sun Bowl in 1998.
6. George W. Bush, then Texas governor, helped UTEP celebrate its 100th Commencement in 1998 as the keynote speaker.

BASKETBALL IS BACK!

MEN'S C-USA HOME SCHEDULE

01/09 - CHARLOTTE
01/11 - MARSHALL
01/25 - UTSA
01/30 - LA TECH
02/01 - RICE
02/13 - FLORIDA ATLANTIC
02/15 - FIU
02/27 - TULSA

WOMEN'S C-USA HOME SCHEDULE

01/11 - TULSA
01/18 - CHARLOTTE
01/22 - SOUTHERN MISS
01/29 - MARSHALL
02/05 - LA TECH
02/08 - FIU
02/22 - EAST CAROLINA
02/26 - UTSA



CALL 747-5234 FOR TICKETS TODAY!



DONATE TODAY!

Purchase men's basketball season tickets in Bronze, Silver or Gold reserved sections and help support student-athlete scholarships!

WWW.MINERATHLETICCLUB.COM
915.747.8759





CEDRICK LANG

Class: Junior
Sport: Men's Basketball
Major: Communication
Hometown: Sioux Falls, S.D.

Cedrick Lang has started 45 games for the Miners in two seasons, averaging 6 points and 5.1 rebounds while shooting 59.4 percent from the field. Last year his offense started to catch up with his already stout defense. He scored in double figures in four of the last six games. Lang tied the school record for single-game field goal percentage by hitting all nine of his shots against Arkansas-Pine Bluff his freshman year. Lang has been as solid off the court as on, earning a spot on the Conference USA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll (minimum 3.0 G.P.A.) the last two years while also securing a spot on the 2013 C-USA Men's Basketball All-Academic Team.



ERIKA ARCURI

Class: Senior
Sport: Softball
Major: Advertising/Graphic Design
Hometown: Tampa, Fla.

Erika Arcuri was voted the 2013 Conference USA Newcomer of the Year. Arcuri completed her first season in the Orange and Blue after transferring from Florida International University. As a junior, she was a top 10 hitter in C-USA with a .347 average. The Tampa native led the Miners with 26 runs and finished second on the squad with 50 hits. Arcuri recorded seven RBI, while she was solid at centerfield with an overall fielding percentage of .963 and was errorless in fielding during conference play. She only struck out 11 times in 144 at-bats during the season.



JANICE JACKSON

Class: Graduate student
Sport: Track and Field
Major: History
Hometown: St. Catherine, Jamaica

Janice Jackson earned her first All-American honor in the 100m hurdles after clocking a time of 13.06, finishing eighth in one of the fastest races of the 2013 NCAA Championships. The hurdler posted the second-fastest time in program history at the NCAA Championship prelims, crossing the finish line with a mark of 12.99 and automatically qualifying for the finals. The Jamaica native registered four first-place finishes during her outdoor season, including a gold medal finish at the C-USA Championship in the 100m hurdles. During the regular indoor season, Jackson won four consecutive races, constantly leading the women's team week after week. She also excels academically, maintaining a 3.93 G.P.A..



KELLI WILLINGHAM

Class: Senior
Sport: Basketball
Major: Kinesiology
Hometown: DeSoto, Texas

Kelli Willingham is a senior leader for the 2013-14 UTEP women's basketball team. Willingham is a three-year starter who has enjoyed a stellar career for the Orange and Blue. She is already one of just three players in program history with at least 800 points (841) and 300 assists (312). Willingham has started 90 of 95 games played, and started the season on the cusp of 3,000 minutes (2,945) played. She has been instrumental in the Miners' success, helping them post back-to-back 20-win seasons. Included in the sequence was a school and Conference USA record 29-4 effort during the 2011-12 campaign. She has also excelled in the classroom and was voted to the C-USA women's basketball All-Academic team in both 2011 and 2012. She maintains a 3.78 G.P.A. 🏆

UTEP ALUMS

EL PASO

Nearly 400 members of the UTEP family gathered at Memorial Park and reminisced about their university days over hamburgers and hot dogs, and created new memories playing dodgeball and line dancing with Paydirt Pete. A water balloon toss, water slide, popsicles and a watermelon-eating contest offered picnickers some relief from the heat.



JUÁREZ

About 100 alumni, current students, family and friends gathered at the monument and park known as Plaza de la Mexicanidad, or the X, in Juárez, Mexico for the alumni PICK-NIC. Guests ate tacos al pastor, rode a mechanical bull, and sang and danced the night away with mariachis.



PICK-NIC Fun

By Nadia M. Whitehead



DALLAS

Rather than be out in the heat, 50 alumni gathered at Bowl & Barrel, an upscale bowling alley, tavern and restaurant in Dallas, to bowl, eat and enjoy each other's company. From left, Alfredo Carbajal, Roman Harrington and Orlando Salazar pose for a photo.



AUSTIN

Held at Mountain View Park, the PICK-NIC of the Austin alumni chapter brought together 59 attendees who participated in water balloon fights, listened to music and played trivia games for prizes. At one point, each alumnus introduced his or herself and described a favorite UTEP memory.

NEW YORK

Alumni living in the Big Apple gathered at Cedar Hill in Central Park and held a potluck PICK-NIC. Approximately 30 alumni attended and ate, played soccer and Frisbee, and cooled off with water balloons.



The University's second annual alumni "PICK-NIC" took place on July 13 across the United States and in Mexico. Alumni from coast to coast and border to border joined in on the fun, hosting 23 picnics from New York's Central Park to Kelley Park in San Francisco.

Each organizer received an official PICK-NIC package: a blue UTEP cooler filled with tablecloths, orange cups, plates and plastic cutlery, flying discs, beach balls, name tags, balloons, stickers, pom-poms and tattoos. The package also included a CD of the UTEP Fight Song music and copies of the lyrics so alumni could post videos of themselves singing the song.

SAN DIEGO

Seventeen alumni, plus family and friends, made it out to El Agave Restaurant and Tequileria in Old Town San Diego for a family-friendly lunch of authentic Mexican cuisine and tequila. UTEP alumni went around the table and introduced themselves individually – highlighting the year they graduated and their degree. UTEP prizes were raffled while alumni reminisced about their years on campus.



WASHINGTON D.C./BALTIMORE

Alumni living in and around the nation's capital gathered at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis, Md. PICK-NIC organizer Loretta Rodriguez said, "We had 65 attendees, including Willarda Edwards, M.D., a member of the UTEP Alumni Association's Board of Directors, which made it extra special. We all enjoyed the day networking and taking advantage of the beautiful park we were in by hiking the paths, playing with our dogs, or enjoying the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. Overall it was a great success!"

PHILADELPHIA

Six alumni ranging from the Class of 1965 to the Class of 2009 attended the alumni PICK-NIC in Philadelphia at Morgan's Pier on the Delaware River. Guests enjoyed appetizers and cocktails while playing UTEP trivia games and getting to know each other. 📺



PROFILE IN GIVING

Dee and Adair Margo are passionate supporters of UTEP and El Paso.



THE POWER OF TWO

EL PASO COUPLE IS DEDICATED TO UTEP

By Rebecca Downey • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

From quality of life to culture to economic development, Dee and Adair Margo consider UTEP to be an important cornerstone in the success of the Paso del Norte region.

Since 1981, the Margos have generously supported UTEP colleges and programs campuswide. In 2012, they endowed the Tom Lea Graduate Research Fellowship at UTEP to support graduate students conducting research on Southwestern art and literary history “in the spirit of Tom Lea.”

Adair Margo is passionate about the late Tom Lea – a muralist, illustrator, easel painter, war correspondent, novelist and historian whose prolific and powerful works are just now being fully appreciated around the world. In 2010, she closed the Adair Margo Galley – which she owned for more than 20 years – to establish the Tom Lea Institute. She started the institute to raise awareness of Lea’s immense contributions to art and literature, as well as to inventory his vast body of work, including his letters, which can be found in academic institutions, libraries, museums, and in the collections of the U.S. Army and Lea’s close friends. UTEP also proudly maintains a collection of Lea’s works. During President George W. Bush’s Administration, Lea’s painting “Rio Grande” was displayed in the Oval Office of the White House.

Adair says she believes UTEP helps students understand who they are and the extraordinary city in which they live, and she hopes that the Tom Lea Fellows will learn from Lea’s legacy, as well as the environment, experiences and relationships that helped shape his life.

“I want UTEP students to develop a sense of rootedness because they will be able to participate more fully in the world when they know who they are,” she said.

The Margos’ own contributions to the world

have been far-reaching.

Adair has played an integral role in improving the lives of women living in poverty in El Paso and the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, through the FEMAP Foundation, which she co-founded in 1992 to support health care services and facilitate economic and social development. During the two-term presidency of George W. Bush, she chaired the President’s Committee

on the Arts and the Humanities.

Dee is the former Chairman and CEO of El Paso’s JDW Insurance, one of the largest privately held insurance agencies in the United States. He served one term as Texas State Representative for District 78 and also was a civilian aide to the U.S. Secretary of the Army. He has chaired the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce,

the El Paso Empowerment Zone, and served on many other area boards. He also was instrumental in bringing more than \$23 million to the Paso del Norte region through the Border Fund, which operated through the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. In May 2013, he was appointed by the Texas Education Agency to the Board of Managers for the El Paso Independent School District.

UTEP also has greatly benefitted from the Margos’ gifts of time, talent and wisdom over the years through their service on numerous boards and committees.

“This community is important to us ... and an educated workforce drives this community. That’s why UTEP is so important,” Dee said. “Adair and I are proud to be associated with UTEP. We made a decision years ago that many of our resources would go to UTEP.”

“I WANT UTEP STUDENTS TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF ROOTEDNESS BECAUSE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN THE WORLD WHEN THEY KNOW WHO THEY ARE.”

Adair Margo

UTEPALUMNI
ASSOCIATION



*Continuing
to
grow*

*Become an Alumni
Association Member*

- Alumni programs
- Networking
- Chapter Activities
- Career Services

Stay Connected

f /utepalumniassociation
t /utepalumni
✉ alumni.utep.edu

Peter and Margaret De Wetter Center
500 W. University Avenue
El Paso, TX 79968
915.747.8600
1.866.GO Miners (toll free)



**“An adventure
this exciting
was simply not
something I could
pass on.”**

Will Osolinsky
Former Miner football player

UTEP alumnus Will Osolinsky is a Peace Corps volunteer serving in the Ukraine. He is standing outside a state administration building.

GRIDIRON GRADUATE FINDS FULFILLMENT IN **PEACE CORPS ADVENTURE**

By Daniel Perez

Former Miner football player Will Osolinsky is on a self-described adventure of a lifetime in Ukraine because he chose to follow the road less traveled.

Osolinsky played offensive tackle with the Miners as he earned his marketing degree in 2010 and became a team graduate assistant until he finished his M.B.A. with a concentration in finance two years later. He attended a Peace Corps presentation on a whim while a graduate student and became interested in the chance to immerse himself in a foreign culture and participate in community development.

After a lot of research and discussion with family and UTEP mentors, the Miner alumnus decided to forego offers from several Fortune 500 companies and join the Peace Corps, which was created in 1961 to promote friendship and world peace.

After a 15-month application process, the organization stationed Osolinsky in Zaporozhye, a city in southeastern Ukraine, to

work with government officials and Ukrainian entrepreneurs on best business practices and leadership skills. He spent the first three months of a 27-month assignment with a host family familiarizing himself with the Russian language and culture.

Osolinsky, who teaches English classes and makes business presentations, said the people he meets are pro-American who often are interested in his height (6-foot-7, or 2 meters locally), cowboy boots and American football. In fact, he helps coach a local American football team, the Cossacks.

“An adventure this exciting was simply not something I could pass on,” he wrote in his blog at slinks54.blogspot.com. “I’m thrilled to be part of it.”

The alumnus fills his free time with online courses and reading fun and self-improvement books. He eats plenty of fresh produce and has canned some fruits and vegetables for the winter. He walks about seven miles per day and is trying

to stretch his \$180 monthly stipend so he can buy a bike that will allow him to travel more.

UTEP linebackers Coach Robert Rodriguez got to know “Oz” as the football team’s academic liaison graduate assistant, and was not surprised by his friend’s decision.

“(Osolinsky) did everything with pride; even the menial tasks. Nothing was half-speed. He was a selfless individual who always looked for ways to help,” Rodriguez said.

The Peace Corps will give Osolinsky \$7,425 as part of a readjustment allowance at the end of his assignment, which he plans to use to travel around Eastern Europe before returning to America. Once stateside, he would like to get involved with an alternative energy company or with the U.S. Department of State. Then again, he also is interested in being a game warden or forest ranger.

It looks like there could be another fork in the road less traveled. 📍



Imana Ekal, Ph.D., lecturer in the Department of Geological Sciences, recently campaigned for governor of Turkana, one of the 47 counties in Kenya.

ALUM STRIVES TO BRING CHANGE TO HOMELAND

By Nadia M. Whitehead • Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

Imana Ekal, Ph.D., has come a long way.

Born into poverty in Turkana, Kenya, Ekal was orphaned at eight years old when his parents died during a severe drought that left many destitute and starving.

"Today, I go into my closet and look at my clothes and get to plan what I'm going to wear for the day," said the University of Texas at El Paso alum. "Fifty years ago I was so poor that I didn't have a choice — I wore the same outfit every single day."

But Ekal was lucky. Because of his aptitude to learn, excellent grades and sheer hard work, he supported himself through high school and beyond. The Kenyan government supported his undergraduate education at the Kenya Science Teachers College and later at the University of Nairobi. At present, he holds two master's degrees and a doctoral degree in geophysics from UTEP.

Today, he works at UTEP as a lecturer in the Department of Geological Sciences. He has also taught physics at El Paso Community College and various high schools in the region, and has raised four children with his wife of 24 years, Donna Ekal, Ph.D., associate provost for undergraduate studies at UTEP.

Despite his success and achievement of the "American dream," the geophysicist has grown restless.

"My life in this country — in El Paso — is pretty comfortable," he said. "I live well, my wife and I are employed, and I have a big house, but I just have this feeling inside me that I am being selfish, because I am over here indulging myself while there are others in my country who are suffering."

THE POLITICAL WORLD

In June 2012, Ekal resigned from his position as a teacher at Northwest Early College High School and went back to his homeland to campaign for governor of Turkana.

Kenya is split into 47 counties, one of which is Turkana. Classified as the poorest county in the country by the *Daily Nation* (Kenya's leading newspaper), 94 out of every 100 in Turkana live below the poverty line, which is defined as living on less than \$1.25 per day.

"One of the things people don't realize is that politics there are much different from here," said Diane Doser, Ph.D., professor of geological sciences, who has known Ekal for some 20 years. "It's not like the U.S. President who flies in and gives a 15 minute speech to a large crowd, then heads to another city. You need to talk and sit down with people individually, and make them feel important to get their vote."

That is exactly what Ekal did for eight months until the elections in March 2013 — make phone calls, talk one-on-one with Kenyans and make speeches to crowds.

Unfortunately, the political culture there requires a bit more than just persuasion.

"Over there, you're expected to bribe people for everything. If you see someone commit a crime and go tell an officer, he'll expect a bribe from you before he arrests the person — he'll expect a bribe from you to do his job," Ekal said. "It's so bad, that whenever I addressed anyone, they would expect me to give them money just because they took the time to listen to me. Kenya used to not be like that. Part of it is because of the poverty that is so rampant, and part of it is because that's just how things are done there now."

The statistics reveal a similar story.

According to the 2012 Corruption Perception Index by Transparency International, which measures countries on their perceived levels of public sector corruption, Kenya ranks 27 out of 100, where 0 is considered highly corrupt and 100 is very transparent.

After placing second in the run for governor, Ekal said, "My opponents did more than just bribe the people to vote for them, [they] bribed the voting booth monitors as well. Many people in my country are illiterate and need someone to mark their ballots for them. So instead of marking the person who the voter requested, the monitors would mark the name of the briber."

Although Ekal did not win, he has seen firsthand the corruption that exists in his homeland, and is even more determined to go back. He hopes to return to Kenya and campaign again in 2017, if possible.

"I know I can improve their security system, their education, health and more," he said. "I have the education to help improve their odds."

Doser agreed.

"In some sense, his geology background could help him solve a lot of the county's issues, which are related to geological resources, like water and energy shortage. I really think he could help his region make wiser decisions to improve their standards of living."

"Those people there are my people. I speak their language; I was born into the same situation," Ekal said. "Having come this far, how can I not help them?" 📍



1950s.....

Joseph “Sib” Abraham, Jr. (B.B.A. ’58), attorney at the Law Office of Joseph Abraham, Jr. in El Paso, was honored with the Texas Bar Foundation’s Outstanding 50-Year Lawyer Award in June. The award recognizes attorneys whose practice spans 50 years or more, and who adhere to the highest principles and traditions of the legal profession and service to the public.

Rosa E. Guerrero (B.A. ’57; M.Ed. ’77), motivational speaker, humanitarian and educational consultant in El Paso, was named a 2013 Woman of Impact at the *El Paso Inc.* Women of Impact Celebration in May. She was recognized for her impact, level of involvement, breadth of reach and professional achievement in the El Paso community.

Ernesto R. Martinez (B.B.A. ’58; M.Ed. ’07), of El Paso, was presented a city proclamation at the Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Veterans Home in May for 35 years of government service and for his work as a U.S. government illustrator and El Paso Community College professor.

1960s.....

Harry Flournoy, Jr. (B.A. ’69), of McDonough, Ga., was named to UTEP’s 12th Athletic Hall of Fame in May. Flournoy was the captain and leading rebounder for the 1966 Texas Western NCAA championship team and is one of only two players in school history to secure more than 300 rebounds in two separate seasons.

George A. “Tony” Harper (B.A. ’68), of El Paso, retired Montwood High School basketball coach, was named the National High School Coaches Association’s Basketball Coach of the Year in August. Harper earned the title after passing the 900-win mark this past season, making him one of four coaches in America to win at least 900 games. He has 908 total victories in his career.

Odell S. Holmes (B.B.A. ’66) was elected judge of El Paso’s Municipal Court of Appeals in June.

Corina “Corine” Prieto (B.S. ’68), of El Paso, was a financial risk commentator on Fox News’ segment “21st Century Business” in July.

1970s.....

John A. Attel (B.S.M.E. ’79) was named general manager of El Paso car dealership Dick Poe Toyota-Scion in July.

Juan G. Ayala (B.B.A. ’79), of Falls Church, Va., was named commander of the Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM) in a Change of Command ceremony at Henderson Hall, Arlington, Va., in July.

John F. Cook (B.B.A. ’77), executive director of the U.S.–Mexico Border Mayors Association, retired from his seat as the mayor of El Paso in June.

Robert G. “Bob” Geske (B.S.Ed. ’71; M.Ed. ’77), retired El Paso Independent School District teacher, was named to the El Paso Independent School District’s board of trustees in June.

Jose Gomez (B.A. ’70), director of business development and community affairs at C.F. Jordan Construction, LLC. in El Paso, was honored in July with the City’s Conquistador Award for his community efforts and for his dedication to three of the Circle of Giants exhibits at the Museum of History. The Conquistador Award is the city’s highest commendation bestowed upon individuals.

Debra C. “Debbi” Hester (B.B.A. ’77), realtor at El Paso real estate firm ERA Sellers, Buyers and Associates, was named the firm’s Top Producer for July and the year-to-date Overall No. 1 Agent.

Linda Daw Hudson (B.B.A. ’77) was posthumously named a 2013 Woman of Impact at the *El Paso Inc.* Women of Impact Celebration in May. She was recognized for her impact, level of involvement, breadth of reach and professional achievement in the El Paso community.

Manny Najera (B.B.A. ’70), former district director of the U.S. Customs Services and two-term Texas State House Representative of El Paso, was re-elected to the national Alzheimer’s Association in August. Najera is the first El Pasoan to serve on the board.

Paul W. Pearson (B.S.Ed. ’75; M.Ed. ’78), retired principal at El Paso Community College’s Early College High School, was named to the Ysleta Independent School District board of trustees in June.

Rene D. Pena (B.B.A. ’78), president at CPA firm Peña, Briones, McDaniel & Co. in El Paso, was named a Hospice El Paso board member in May.

Enrique “Henry” Quintana (B.A. ’75; M.A. ’94), retired El Paso Electric Co. public relations manager, joined El Paso Community College as a full-time public speaking faculty member in July.

Larry E. Romero (B.B.A. ’78), owner of Romero Financial Services in El Paso, was elected in June to represent District 2 in the El Paso City Council. District 2 is El Paso’s North-Central area.

Charles N. “Chuck” Taylor, Jr. (B.S. ’77; B.S.Ed. ’87), retired Socorro Independent School District

teacher, was named to the El Paso Independent School District’s board of trustees in June.

1980s.....

Ruben Batista, Jr. (B.S.Ed. ’83), of El Paso, retired as the head football coach of Austin High School in July.

Shahidul H. “Shahid” Joarder (M.S. ’88) was promoted to associate in the New York office of Dewberry in July. Dewberry is a professional services firm with a history of providing architecture, engineering, and management and consulting services to public and private sector clients.

Alma R. Kanorr (B.S.Ed. ’85), a first-grade teacher for 27 years at Edgemere Elementary in El Paso, in March was named the 2012-13 Bilingual Teacher of the Year for her role in establishing the school’s successful dual-language program.

Patricia P. McLean (B.B.A. ’84), of El Paso, was named to the Ysleta Independent School District’s board of trustees in June.

Richard A. Olivo (B.A. ’88) was re-elected judge of El Paso’s Municipal Court 4 in June.

Stuart E. Tomlinson (B.S. ’83) was named vice president of manufacturing at Ash Grove Cement Company in Overland Park, Kansas, in July.

1990s.....

Emma Acosta (B.B.A. ’94) was re-elected to represent District 3 in the El Paso City Council in June.

John R. Corrigan (M.F.A. ’98), chair of Northfield Mount Hermon [Massachusetts] School’s English department, published the stand-alone crime novel *This One Day* (Five Star/Gale) in December. Corrigan also signed a three-book deal this summer with publishing company Midnight Ink.

Graciela “Gracie” Estep (B.B.A. ’98) was promoted to division president of El Paso development company Saratoga Homes in August. Estep is the first female division president in the history of the company.

John E. Feighery, Jr. (B.S.M.E. ’99), engineer at the NASA Johnson Space Center in New York, co-founded the non-profit mobile application mWater in July. mWater is a mobile application for testing and mapping sources and the quality of water in developing countries.

Annie M. Feighery (B.A. ’99), of New York City, co-founded the non-profit mobile application mWater in July. mWater is a mobile application

for testing and mapping sources of water, and the quality of water, in developing countries.

Miguel Fernandez, Jr. (B.B.A. '98), CEO of El Paso- Juarez telecommunications carrier Transtelco was a panelist discussing regional innovation at the Paso del Norte Venture Expo 2013 in July.

Kevin J. Hayes (B.B.A. '98) was named general manager for El Paso's KFOX-Channel 14 in May.

Juan I. Martinez (B.B.A. '93; M.Ed. '96) was appointed superintendent for Socorro [Texas] Independent School District in July.

Patrick C. McDonnell (B.A. '92), of Henderson, Nevada, earned a Juris Doctorate with honors from the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in May 2013.

Agustin Montes, II (B.B.A. '99) joined El Paso-based wealth management firm Strategic Wealth Advisors as partner and director of credit and debt management in July. Strategic Wealth Advisors is a registered branch location of Investors Capital Corporation, a premier independent broker/dealer located in Lynnfield, Mass.

Robert C. Moore (B.A. '98), *El Paso Times* editor and vice president of news for the Texas-New Mexico Newspapers Partnership, was recognized in August as Opinion Journalist of the Year by the Association of Opinion Journalists for his work on the El Paso Independent School District's cheating scandal. Additionally, Moore was honored in June with the Burl Osborne Award for Editorial Leadership at the American Society of News Editors' annual conference in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes his editorials on reforming the El Paso Independent School District. Moore's editorial work also earned awards from the Education Writers Association, the National Headliners Awards, Texas Associated Press Managing Editors and the Texas State Teachers Association.

Robert M. "Rob" Sesich (B.S.Ed. '91), broker, dealer and registered investment adviser, was honored as Lincoln Financial Advisors' Financial Planner of the Month in July.

Diana Valdez (B.A. '99), attorney at law firm ScottHulse, P.C. in El Paso, was a guest speaker at an El Paso Community Foundation event in August. Valdez spoke to promote ethics in El Paso's non-profit sector.

Lawrence P. Welsh (M.F.A. '97), author and El Paso Community College associate professor,

was named a finalist for the 2013 Writers' League of Texas Book award for his latest collection of poetry, *Begging for Vultures: New and Selected Poems 1994-2009*, in July. The Writers' League of Texas is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to provide a forum for information, support and sharing among writers, editors, publishers and agents.

2000s.....
Monika M. Carrasco (B.S. '07; M.Ed. '09), of El Paso, was named head coach of the Chapin High School girls basketball team in August.

Lydia G. Cenicerros (B.B.A. '03), of El Paso, was promoted to the position of treasury management officer at Capital Bank in August.

Vanessa Flores (B.B.A. '06) was named director of marketing at Pedi360 in August. Pedi360 is a professional pediatric management company headquartered in El Paso dedicated to the concept that physician practices should concentrate on medicine and the well-being of their patients instead of the administrative portion of their medical practices.

Octavio Gomez (B.B.A. '03), owner of El Paso restaurants The Garden and Crave Kitchen and Bar, opened the all-natural restaurant Independent Burger in September. Independent Burger sets itself apart by using grass-fed local beef, locally grown produce and locally baked bread.

Azuri L. Gonzalez (B.A. '02; M.A. '11), of El Paso, was named vice chair and secretary of the YWCA national board of directors in July.

Jennifer E. Han (B.S. '07), of El Paso, defeated opponent Karen Duplin, of Mystic, Conn., with a unanimous decision at a PT's Showclub boxing event in Colorado in June.

Gerina Piller (B.A. '07) was named to the United States Solheim Cup golf team in St. Andrews, Scotland, in August.

Cynthia P. Rico (B.B.A. '00), owner of Rico Paramedical in El Paso, received the El Paso Chapter of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors' Appreciation Award in June.

Zahira Torres (B.A. '07), reporter at the *Denver Post*, was recognized in August with the James Madison Award from the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas in Austin for her work in obtaining public records that exposed cheating in El Paso Independent School District. The James Madison Award is presented annually to honor

individuals or groups who have championed, protected and promoted public access to government information and the public's right to know at the national level. Torres also was recognized in January with the Hovey-Harkness Award at Governing's annual Outlook in the States and Localities conference in Washington, D.C., for her *El Paso Times* stories exposing widespread cheating in the EPISD.

Linda V. Velarde (B.A. '09) was appointed executive director at Villa Maria in July. Villa Maria is a temporary home for homeless women in El Paso.

Isabel Reza White (M.Ed. '08), teacher education instructor at UTEP, was named president of the Junior League of El Paso at the 80th anniversary celebration in May. The Junior League of El Paso is an organization to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

2010s.....
Gregory C. "Greg" Foster (B.M.S. '11), former UTEP basketball standout, was named assistant coach for the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers in September. Foster was a 2001 NBA champion with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Blessing O. Okagbare (B.B.A. '11), former UTEP track standout and 2012 Olympic runner, placed third in the women's 200-meter dash at the International Association of Athletics Foundation World Track and Field Championships in Moscow in August. Additionally, Okagbare broke the 15-year African sprint record of 10.90 seconds with a time of 10.79 seconds at the International Association of Athletics Foundation World Track and Field Championships in Moscow in July.

America Y. Guevara (B.A. '10; M.S. '12), analyst with the El Paso branch of ManTech International, was a panelist at International Association for Intelligence Education Conference hosted at UTEP in May. The conference convened to discuss drug cartel propaganda tactics, their influence on politics, and their role in border security.

Frida F. Palencia (B.B.A. '10) joined El Paso CPA firm of White+Samaniogo+Campbell, LLC., as a tax service accountant in June.

Rodney D. Ryan (B.S. '10), of El Paso, was named head football coach at Austin High School in July. 🏈

IN MEMORIAM

Abelardo O. Rosas (B.A. '60)
El Paso; Dec. 5, 2012.

Robert M. Stevenson (B.A. '36)
Santa Monica, Calif.; Dec. 22, 2012.

Maurice D. Ingram (M.Ed. '61)
El Paso; Jan. 28, 2013.

Michael D. Stowe (B.A. '83)
El Paso; Jan. 28, 2013.

Daniel Hollenshead (B.B.A. '56)
Farmington, N.M.; March 31, 2013.

Ledford Francis "L.F." Beard (B.B.A. '50)
Severna Park, Md.; April 12, 2013.

Yldefonso G. Luna (B.A. '55; M.Ed. '76)
El Paso; April 26, 2013.

Kenneth H. Boesse, Jr. (B.M. '75)
Cloudcroft, N.M.; May 3, 2013.

Charles S. "Chuck" Gara (B.B.A. '70)
Albuquerque, N.M.; May 3, 2013.

Pauline "Polly" McKee Robinson (B.M. '67)
Houston; May 5, 2013.

Luis Perez Flores (B.M. '86)
El Paso; May 8, 2013.

Jorge Perez (B.S. '94)
El Paso; May 9, 2013.

Michael D. "Mike" Empson (B.B.A. '71)
Alto, N.M.; May 12, 2013.

Rodolfo A. "Rudy" Resendez, Sr. (B.B.A. '60; M.Ed. '66)
El Paso; May 13, 2013.

Peter J. Serrano (B.S.C.E. '83)
Killeen, Texas; May 14, 2013.

Wyvonia O. "Vona" Uxer (B.S.Ed. '70)
El Paso; May 14, 2013.

Jeananne Masterson Mapes (B.S.Ed. '80)
El Paso; May 15, 2013.

George K. Fell, Jr. (B.B.A. '69)
Smithville, Okla.; May 18, 2013.

Irma Portillo (B.M. '69)
El Paso; May 18, 2013.

John C. Whitson (B.S. '59)
Ridgecrest, Calif.; May 18, 2013.

Josephine R. "Chiqui" Verosky (B.A. '49)
El Paso; May 19, 2013.

Dina I. Ginithan (B.I.S. '95)
El Paso; May 20, 2013.

J. Robert "Bob" Holcomb (B.B.A. '63)
Springfield, Ohio; May 20, 2013.

Anne L. Nothhelfer (B.A. '91)
Arden, N.C.; May 22, 2013.

David B. Alexander (B.S. '79; M.S. '83)
Vancouver, Wash.; May 23, 2013.

Evan D. Giallanza (M.Ed. '92)
El Paso; May 27, 2013.

Albert Marquez (B.S.E.E. '70)
Tempe, Ariz.; May 27, 2013.

***Rosalinda Prieto;**
El Paso; June 1, 2013.

Johnnie J. Cox (B.S. '56)
Willis, Texas; June 8, 2013.

James S. Molder (B.B.A. '63)
Ontario, Ore.; June 8, 2013.

Mary F. "Frankie" Dungan (B.S.Ed. '66; M.Ed. '84)
Mansfield, Texas; June 9, 2013.

Martha G. De Lao (B.A. '10)
El Paso; June 13, 2013.

Andres R. Norte (B.S.E.E. '61; M.S.E.E. '71)
El Paso; June 14, 2013.

Helen F. Griswold (B.A. '40)
Silver City, N.M.; June 15, 2013.

Leroy Johnson (B.A. '69)
Desoto, Texas; June 17, 2013.

Robert F. Lucas (B.S.Ed. '84)
El Paso; June 21, 2013.

Deborah J. Crane (B.A. '82)
Phoenix; June 27, 2013.

Billy J. Matthews (B.S.C.E. '54)
El Paso; June 28, 2013.

William J. Gharis (B.S. '59)
Towanda, Pa.; June 28, 2013.

Carolyn Fleming Smith (B.B.A. '66)
Plano, Texas; June 28, 2013.

Mary J. Byrd (M.Ed. '76)
El Paso; July 2, 2013.

Doris Y. Jones (B.A. '49)
Albuquerque, N.M.; July 2, 2013.

Walter L. Romine (B.M.S. '09)
Snyder, Texas; July 6, 2013.

George D. Wardy (B.A. '50)
Cypress, Calif.; July 6, 2013.

Alla C. Severns (B.S.Ed. '91)
El Paso; July 9, 2013.

Johnny F. Threatt (B.A. '78)
El Paso; July 9, 2013.

Pedro A. "Pete" Burton, Jr. (B.S. '79)
El Paso; July 11, 2013.

David K. Baker (B.S.N. '88)
El Paso; July 13, 2013.

Martha A. Dieppa (B.A. '86)
El Paso; July 13, 2013.

Aubrey B. "Ben" Pinnell, Jr. (B.A. '57),
Corinth, Texas; July 14, 2013.

Robert "Bobby" Cordova (B.A. '58; M.Ed. '78)
El Paso; July 16, 2013.

Ruben S. Gonzalez (B.A. '79)
El Paso; July 18, 2013.

Margaret E. McDaniel (B.A. '40)
El Paso; July 18, 2013.

Gilbert B. Borunda (B.A. '69)
El Paso; July 20, 2013.

Sylvia Hartman (B.S.Ed. '68)
Port Townsend, Wash.; July 20, 2013.

Arthur S. "Art" Metcalfe, Sr. (B.S.Ed. '69)
Georgetown, Texas; July 21, 2013.

Oscar L. Sloan (B.S.Ed. '77)
Albuquerque, N.M.; July 23, 2013.

Carlos E. Chow (B.B.A. '77)
El Paso; July 24, 2013.

Manuel L. Apodaca (B.A. '58)
El Paso; July 27, 2013.

Ysela Y. Fauver (B.S.Ed. '82)
El Paso; July 27, 2013.

Armando Gallardo, Sr. (B.B.A. '75)
El Paso; July 27, 2013.

Donald E. Harkins (M.Ed. '72)
El Paso; July 27, 2013.

Kenneth J. Rutledge (B.S. '66; M.Ed. '77)
El Paso; July 28, 2013.

Felicitas C. Valdez (B.S.Ed. '87)
El Paso; July 30, 2013.

Agustin G. Martinez (B.S.W. '97)
El Paso; Aug. 2, 2013.

Miguel A. "Mike" Gonzalez (B.B.A. '93; M.Ed. '04)
El Paso; Aug. 3, 2013.

Jacob E. Hawes (B.A. '95)
El Paso; Aug. 5, 2013.

Fernando "Fernie" Neria (B.S.Ed. '90)
El Paso; Aug. 5, 2013.

Shirley J. Caskey (B.S.Ed. '70; M.A. '73) Boise, Idaho; Aug. 11, 2013.

Roberto Vargas (B.A. '71) Dallas; Aug. 11, 2013.

Ignacio Norman (B.S.M.E. '76)
League City, Texas; Aug. 14, 2013.

* UTEP student at time of death



Samuel John Brient, Jr.

Stories by Nadia M. Whitehead

Professor Emeritus Samuel Brient, Ph.D., co-founder of the popular UTEP Physics Circus, died Sept. 10 at age 83.

Born in Phoenix, Brient's family moved to El Paso when he was 2 years old. He grew up in the desert town and attended the Texas College of Mines for two years, then transferred to The University of Texas at Austin, where he received his bachelor's and doctoral degrees in physics.

His wife, Mary Beth, said he loved to tell the story of how he came to work at the University.

While he was in the basement of the physics building at UT Austin, he received a phone call from Joseph Ray – president of Texas Western College – personally offering him a job and inviting him to help start a physics master's degree program.

Brient loved El Paso and the desert, and was enthusiastic about returning and being part of the new program. He began teaching in 1962 and offered the University's first physics graduate courses: quantum mechanics, solid state and modern physics.

"It was real easy to get along with John," said Clarence "Kiki" Cooper, a close friend and colleague of Brient's. "I remember he used to invite students and faculty to his house, and we would all go over and hang out."

Brient started a research program in solid-state physics at UTEP and continued the research until his retirement in 1997, when he and his wife relocated to Santa Fe and later, Bogart, Ga.

Cooper added, "John was like a mountain goat. He used to go up to the mountains with a friend all the time and climb up these steep cliffs."

The physicist requested his ashes be scattered in the Organ Mountains of Las Cruces, N.M. – his old stomping grounds.

Peter Stanley Chrapliwy

Associate Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences Peter Chrapliwy, Ph.D., died April 11 at age 89.

The son of Polish immigrants, Chrapliwy served in World War II as a pharmacist's mate onboard U.S. Navy destroyer escorts in the Pacific. After the war, Chrapliwy received his bachelor's and master's degrees from The University of Kansas, and his doctoral degree from The University of Illinois.

The biologist had barely finished his coursework at Illinois when he was offered a teaching position at Texas Western College.

His daughter, Diane Lybbert, still remembers how the family hopped into the car and drove across the country to El Paso. She said, "I was 9 then, and I remember Mama had just had a baby the week before we left."

Chrapliwy worked at UTEP from 1960-87. Over the years, he taught multiple courses — including zoology, ecology, comparative anatomy, biology and evolutionary theory — where students had the chance to dissect sharks and fetal pigs.

During his tenure at The University of Texas at El Paso, the student body named him Most Popular Professor nine times, and he received the Excellence in Teaching Award.

Keenly interested in the progress of his students, Chrapliwy was able to communicate complex ideas in a way that held the rapt attention of his students. He often took them on field trips to Anapra Juárez's "cow graveyard," where he explained the decomposition process.

After retiring, Chrapliwy stayed in El Paso and was elected to El Paso Community College's Board of Trustees. He also did odds jobs to keep busy, such as delivering newspapers for the *El Paso Times* and working at a convenience store.

His daughter laughed and said, "He just did the most bizarre things [after he retired] — I mean, this man had a Ph.D.!"

Former students have signed Chrapliwy's online memorial guest book since his passing. Messages include: "From his sage advice to his comic forays, he will always be fondly remembered," "He was the single most influential figure in my college life," "I'm a better person for having known Dr. Chrapliwy," and "You will truly be missed by ex-students and friends." 📌





The University of Texas at El Paso
University Communications
500 W. University Ave.
El Paso, Texas 79968-0522
www.utep.edu

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
BURLINGTON, VT
05401
PERMIT 67

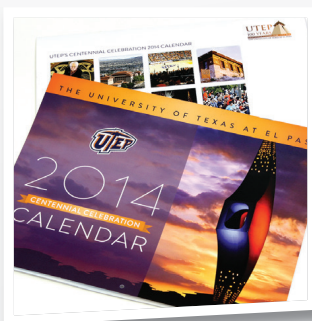
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

NEW CENTENNIAL GEAR ARRIVES AT THE WELCOME CENTER



The UTEP Centennial Museum Welcome Center serves as the headquarters for UTEP's Centennial Celebration throughout 2014.

A fun range of high-quality Centennial memorabilia is now available in the Welcome Center, with more to be rolled out at individual Centennial celebration events throughout 2014. Clothing, food, images, and other collectibles will help you celebrate 100 years of UTEP history and memories. UTEP100years.com



Buy online at UTEP100years.com